

SETTLEMENT REPORT

OF THE

AMBALLA DISTRICT

BY

A. KENSINGTON, ESQUIRE, I.C.S.

1893.

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P R E F A C E.

The Final Settlement Report of the Amballa district has been prepared in accordance with instructions contained in a letter No. 641, dated 6th September 1888, from the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners, to the Junior Secretary to Government Punjab, and in the Punjab Government reply No. 191, dated 26th September 1888.

These instructions directed the Settlement Officers of North Amballa and Karnál-Amballa to prepare separate final reports dealing with subjects connected with the settlement operations, the final results of reassessment and the revision of records, other matters of more general interest being relegated to the Gazetteer. The Settlement Officer of North Amballa was, at the same time, directed to incorporate in his final report information obtained from the Settlement Officer of Karnál-Amballa regarding the Jagádhri and Pípli tahsíls.

I have endeavoured to carry out these instructions as far as possible with the help of Mr. Douie's final report of which I received a copy in print in November 1891. The result has been a somewhat awkward, patchwork arrangement, parts of which deal with the Amballa district as a whole, and parts with the four northern tahsíls of which alone I have an intimate personal knowledge. Paras. 44 to 50 of Chapter III and the whole of Chapter V are taken almost as they stand from the Karnál-Amballa Report, no change being made except to shorten Mr. Douie's account in these sections, and confine it to matters affecting the Amballa district as it now stands. I have also occasionally borrowed his language where the two reports necessarily cover much the same ground. A revised edition of the Amballa Gazetteer is in course of issue.

Dated the 30th March 1893.

A. KENSINGTON.



AMBALLA SETTLEMENT REPORT.

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FINAL SETTLEMENT REPORT OF THE AMBALLA DISTRICT.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT.

1. The Amballa district comprises two detached blocks of country lying between the Jamna and the Sutlej, and it is divided into six tahsils, of which four (Amballa, Naráingarh, Jagádhri and Pípli) are included in the larger block covering the southern and eastern portions of the district, while the remaining two (Kharar and Rúpar) cover a very much smaller tract running up to the Sutlej in the extreme northwest. Roughly these two blocks are divided by the Ghaggar stream, and by a large tract of Native State territory. The district has been built up gradually from the estates which lapsed to, or were confiscated by, the British Government during the period 1809 to 1851. For a Punjab district it is unwieldy in size and not conveniently situated for administrative purposes, having taken its present form more from the force of circumstances than from any attempt to construct a district suitable in itself. The North-Western Railway runs through the Amballa and Jagádhri tahsils, and the recent opening of the Delhi-Kálka line has done much to improve communications; but the roads are generally bad, and as the district extends to some 60 miles from Amballa on the north, 50 on the east and 30 on the south, and is intersected or bounded by Native States in all directions, it can never be an easily administered charge.

2. The district is usually described as submontane, and the description is correct enough as regards the Rúpar, Kharar, Naráin-garh and Jagádhri tahsils, which are all bounded by the Siwálik range and in parts include a considerable area of hilly country. The soil in these tahsils is generally speaking good alluvial loam, similar in character to, though not nearly so rich as the soil in the corresponding tahsils of the Hoshiárpur district across the Sutlej on the north, while as in Hoshiárpur much damage is done to these richer tracts by the sand torrents which pour down from the hills at intervals of a few miles throughout the 80 miles course of the Siwálik range from the Sutlej to the Jamna. The southern portion of the district, however, including the greater part of the Pípli tahsil, a large part of Amballa, and some scattered blocks of villages in Naráingarh and Jagádhri, is much poorer in quality. Stiff clay soil is there the rule, and in Pípli especially the face of the country is broken with huge tracts of *dhak* jungle. Without going into the details given in the printed Assessment Reports for each tahsil it may be said that the crops are practically secure in the Rúpar and Kharar tahsils, fairly secure in all but abnormally bad years in the greater part of Naráingarh and Jagádhri and about half of Amballa, insecure in the rest of Amballa and still more so in the greater part of Pípli. The subject will be noticed more fully under the head of assessments, but this brief description may be useful as indicating the general character of the country, and the extent to which the district is entitled to rank with others of the submontane area. To understand the district there are two things to be constantly borne in mind: first, that (as pointed out in para. 5 of the Amballa Assessment Report), the district is, as a whole, much inferior to the somewhat similarly situated Hoshiárpur district in respect of both fertility of soil and quality of crops; and second, that the deterioration is more and more clearly marked in each tahsil very much in the order in which they come in the map starting from the Sutlej on the north. Jagádhri is, perhaps, an exception as being on the whole a richer tahsil than Naráingarh or Amballa, but elsewhere the rule holds good, and gives a rough line by which to judge of the assessments and capabilities of the country.

3. The district, as it stood at the time of revised settlement, comprised **Area and boundaries.** 2,311 estates, covering an area of 2,607 square miles, exclusive of 14 square miles taken up for the Amballa cantonment. The following are the details by tahsils:—

TAHSIL.								Number of estates.	Total area in miles.	Cultivated area in miles.
Amballa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	304	354	273
Kharar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	391	369	235
Rúpar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386	288	182
Naráingarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	326	435	214
Total North Amballa Settlement charge								1,407	1,446	904
Jagádhri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386	388	260
Pípli	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	518	773	376
Total District								2,311	2,607	1,540

The Pípli tahsíl has since (para. 114 of the Karnál-Amballa Settlement Report) been reduced by the transfer to Kaithal of 89 villages, covering 214 square miles, including 71 of cultivation. This change has reduced the Pípli tahsíl to a manageable size, but the district, as a whole, is still large and straggly, and it includes a great variety of soil, cultivating population and agricultural conditions. It is bounded on the east by the Jamna, separating the Jagádhri and Pípli tahsíls from the Saháranpur district of the North-Western Provinces. On the south the Pípli tahsíl adjoins the Karnál and Kaithal tahsíls of Karnál. On the west the border is throughout Native State territory, principally belonging to Patiála, except in the extreme north-west, where the district just touches Ludhiána. From that point running still further north the Sutlej divides the Rúpar tahsíl along a frontage of 26 miles from the Garhshankar and Una tahsíls of Hoshiárpur, and the remaining north-eastern border line of 80 miles from the Sutlej to the Jamna is again all Native State territory owned by Patiála, Nalagarh, Kalsia and Náhan. In addition there are small scattered blocks of Patiála or Kalsia villages within the limits of the Amballa and Jagádhri tahsíls, while in many places Native territory cuts in between sections of the district in a very inconvenient way.

4. The district is on the whole densely populated, the figures running **Population and land trans.** from nearly 600 to the square mile of cultivation in Pípli **fers.** to nearly 800 in Rúpar, though there are large tracts, especially in Pípli, where the country appears thinly peopled owing to the large proportion of waste areas. Unfortunately an excessive share of the land is in the hands of inferior cultivating castes, except in the Kharar and Rúpar tahsíls where a full half the land is owned by strong Jat communities, which hold their own well and cultivate with great industry after the fashion of their brethren beyond the Sutlej border line. In the remaining tahsíls Rájpúts alone own about a quarter of the land in Jagádhri and Pípli, about a third in Amballa, and two-fifths in Naráingarh. There are in addition large settlements of Gujars, Sayyads, Brahmans and others who must generally be classed as bad cultivators, so that, excluding Kharar and Rúpar, a good deal over half the land is either nominally or actually in the possession of men who have neither the disposition, the energy or the means to make the most of it. Beyond this again partly from enervating climatic conditions, partly from the force of bad example and partly perhaps from circumstances to be traced back to the previous history of the district, even the Jat population of the four southern tahsíls is not generally marked by the industry and robust

energy which are usually characteristic of the race. The result is that in spite of a moderate revenue assessment there are few really prosperous tracts of any size in the district outside the Rúpar and Kharar tahsils. From a fifth to a fourth of the land has already changed hands since last settlement on sale or mortgage in the Amballa, Pípli and Naráingarh tahsils, and about one-third in Jagádhri. These transactions include the transfers among agriculturists themselves, which for all practical purposes may be left out of account, but even with all due deductions the inference that the country is gradually, and in recent years rapidly, passing into the hands of money-lenders and speculators is substantially correct. As things stand at present there is no remedy for this and though an energetic attempt has been made in the last two years to get the people to face the situation more courageously the prospect of any lasting improvement is still remote. The question of the indebtedness of the agricultural classes has been much discussed in recent years, and all that need be said now is that if any relief scheme should be devised in the Punjab it would be well to try the effect in Amballa, and especially in the four southern tahsils of the district, as being probably the worst affected tract in the eastern portion of the province.

5. The Assessment Reports give statistics of the rainfall in each tahsil Rainfall and liability of crops to failure. for a long series of years. The normal rainfall may be taken at 31 inches for the year in Amballa, 29 in Kharar, 26 in Rúpar, 38 in Naráingarh, 44 in Jagádhri and 28 in Pípli. The district is in this respect well situated and there are comparatively few years in which the rains fail altogether. The rainfall is, however, very irregular and the variations from year to year are excessive, the crops in the south of the district especially being liable to almost as much damage from excessive moisture and floods as from drought. The amount of rain required for the spring crops, when once the ground has been saturated sufficiently to admit of sowing, is comparatively small, but the outturn depends largely on the timely fall of the winter rains. Unfortunately these rains are very capricious, and the rabi crop is in consequence often light. In the district, as a whole, the kharíf harvest is somewhat the more important of the two. Here again the principal revenue paying crops—maize, sugarcane, cotton and rice—are constantly liable to damage either from the rain not coming soon enough to enable the people to sow at the proper time, or from untimely breaks alternating with excessive floods. The conditions vary so much from year to year, and again so much in different tracts of the same tahsil, that it is impossible to lay down any general rule, but it may be safely said that the Kharar and Rúpar tahsils are the only two in which suspension of revenue can rarely if ever be necessary. In the four remaining tahsils it will often be a question whether revenue ought not to be suspended, especially for the rabi harvest. The question is complicated in Amballa by the circumstance that so much of the revenue is alienated to petty jágírdárs with no extraneous sources of livelihood, and where, as in most cases, these fraternities collect the revenue themselves direct, it is difficult to secure that any orders, however well meant, shall really benefit the villages. As the result of some experience of the working of past revenue suspensions in the district it may perhaps not be out of place if I venture on two suggestions to be borne in mind by future Deputy Commissioners when a case for suspension is clearly made out. The first is that to avoid excessive complication of the village accounts, the amount suspended should be always an even and very simple fraction of the total instalment for the harvest. I should indeed be inclined to go so far on this point as to say that there can very rarely be advantage in suspending any sum other than the whole, or half, the total demand on the village for the harvest, the attempt to work out a more accurate scale leading in practice to so much difficulty that there is a risk of doing more harm than good. The other point is that a suspension in Amballa can seldom help a village materially unless the beginning of the subsequent recovery is deferred until the second of two consecutive good harvests. The last remark does not perhaps apply altogether to the Pípli tahsil, in which suspensions will be required more frequently than elsewhere in the district, but it may be taken as a good general guide when the necessity for suspending arises, as it often may, in Amballa, Naráingarh or Jagádhri.

6. The district is essentially dependent on rain for its crops, and the total area irrigated from all sources is comparatively insignificant. In Pípli 13 per cent. of the cultivated area is classed as irrigated, in Jagádhri 6 per cent., in Amballa barely $1\frac{1}{2}$, in Kharar about 7, in Rúpar 10 and in Naráingarh about $2\frac{1}{2}$. Good wells are common and highly profitable in many parts of Pípli, in the western Dhaia tract of the Rúpar tahsíl and in a small corresponding tract in Kharar known as the Charsa circle. Elsewhere the well irrigation, such as it is, is mostly from very small masonry or temporary kacha wells and is used for the small plots of garden cultivation in the hands of Málís or Sainís, usually occupancy tenants. The remaining irrigation includes a little from the Western Jamna Canal in Jagádhri and Pípli, some occasional irrigation from kacha tanks, about 8,000 acres irrigated by *kuls* or ducts from the Ghaggar in the Neli circle of the Kharar tahsíl, with about 1,500 acres similarly irrigated by *kuls* in the plains portion and 700 acres in the Morni hill portion of the Naráingarh tahsíl. The crops obtained from the irrigated lands are very valuable, especially the opium and tobacco crops raised by the Málís and Sainís on homestead lands, but the high cultivation required for these crops makes it impossible to largely extend the area on which they can be grown and in general the country is not adapted for irrigating wells owing to the uncertainty of the subsoil water-supply. The *kul* irrigation of Kharar and Naráingarh is valuable, especially for rice and sugarcane crops, but the effect of the irrigation is almost always to make the villages of the tract very unhealthy. This is more particularly the case where the water-supply is taken from the Ghaggar, whether in the plains as in Kharar or in the hills as in Naráingarh.

7. A full account of the physical features of the country, the conditions under which its husbandry is conducted, its agricultural Description of tahsíls. statistics of soils, crops, rents and husbandry, its population at various periods, its tribal distribution, means of communication and so forth, has been given in the different Assessment Reports, and as these are available in print I need not discuss again in detail the subjects which have already been dealt with at some length. Seven of these Assessment Reports were prepared at the revised settlement, being one for each tahsíl with a separate report for the small but curious hill tract of the Naráingarh tahsíl known as the Morni iláka. It may however be useful to sum up briefly the leading features of each tahsíl in this introductory chapter, stating the main divisions adopted for assessment purposes.

8. The Amballa tahsíl is practically a level plain of what must originally have been hard iron clay, known as Dákar. The greater Amballa tahsíl. part of the tahsíl has however been gradually covered with light alluvial loam brought down and deposited by the numerous large hill streams which traverse it from north to south. In a few villages where the loam soil is of considerable depth or where fresh alluvial deposits are frequently made, the land is naturally almost as fertile as anywhere in the district, and the extent to which good crops can be raised is largely dependent on the industry and habits of the cultivators alone. In others, comprising the greater part of the tahsíl, the surface loam soil is thinner and much poorer in quality, and the crops are liable to more frequent failure. There remains about one-fourth of the tahsíl, in irregular patches, where nature has not yet done much to assist the cultivators in dealing with the iron clay soil, from which good crops can only be raised by great and persistent energy. These Dákar lands yield good rice crops in years of abundant rainfall, but the rice is always a capricious crop and often fails badly, while the clay soil in the hands of weak cultivators is choked with coarse grasses making it practically almost unworkable except in the rainy season. The assessment circles of the tahsíl were based on this main division between loam and clay, being given the local names of Seoti and Dákar respectively. The division was not, it must be confessed, very satisfactory, but there was no alternative unless the tahsíl was split up as at the first settlement into a number of more or less artificial sub-divisions.

9. The Kharar and Rúpar tahsíls forming the northern detached block Kharar and Rúpar of the district are very similar in their general character, though each comprising a great variety of soil and tahsíls. physical features. In each there is a long strip of hilly or broken ground

lying in or under the Siwálik range, known as the Ghar circle. Below this to the west there are large tracts of more or less level loam including the largest continuous tracts of fertile soil to be found in the district. In Kharar this tract is classed as Seoti so as to correspond with the somewhat similar tract in Amballa, and there is also a small Dákar circle on the south in which stiff clay soil is in excess. In Rúpar the loam tract has been given the local name of Dhaia as in the adjoining Samrála tahsil of Ludhiána. The only other circles requiring separate notice are the large Bet circle of Rúpar lying along the Sutlej river, which presents the ordinary characteristics of a riverain tract, and the small Neli circle of Kharar, comprising a cluster of villages irrigated from the Ghaggar. This last is a very unfortunately situated tract owing to the extreme unhealthiness of the villages concerned. Taken all round however the Kharar and Rúpar tahsils are markedly prosperous as compared with the rest of the district.

10. The Náráingarh tahsil is situated much like Kharar and is similar in the general features of its three main circles named, Náráingarh tahsil. as in Kharar, Seoti, Dákar and Ghar. The surface of the plains portion of the tahsil is much more uneven than in Kharar, and there is a large tract of very wild broken ground in the centre of the tahsil known as the Darrar circle, Darrar being the locally recognised name for land hopelessly cut up by deep ravines. The Náráingarh tahsil differs from all others in the district in having a large area of true hilly country, known as Morni, situated well within the hilly range. The 93 square miles included in the Morni circle take in several separate ranges running up to a height of nearly 5,000 feet, the cultivated areas being for the most part confined to small strips and terraces along the intervening valleys.

11. The Jagádhri tahsil is of the regular submontane character, situated much like Kharar and Náráingarh, and arranged for assessment purposes on much the same lines, though the assessment circles have here been given different names. The Ghar hilly circle of Náráingarh here has its counterpart in the Kandi, the Seoti loam circle in the Bangar, and the Dákar clay circle in the Dahr. There is also a considerable riverain tract along the Jamna, subdivided into the northern and southern Jamna Khádir.

12. The Pípli tahsil is, like Amballa, practically a dead level plain, stretching from Jagádhri southwards towards the *jangal* Pípli tahsil. country with a general slope from north-east to south-west. Seven separate circles were formed in the tahsil for assessment purposes, but two of these have since been transferred bodily to the Karnál district. Those that remain include a small riverain Khádir tract along the Jamna, a large tract of good alluvial land between the Umla and Márkanda streams, known as the Bet Márkanda circle, corresponding very closely with the Seoti circle of Amballa, and three circles called the Bangar and Northern and Southern Chachra, which have no exact counterpart elsewhere in the district. The soil of the Bangar is somewhat similar to that of the circle of the same name in the Jagádhri tahsil, but the rainfall is less abundant and the villages are much more dependent on well irrigation. The Northern and Southern Chachra circles cover a very wild "tract with a stiff soil and an abundant growth of *dhák* jungle, and intersected by several hill streams, whose influence is mostly injurious, especially in the lower circle. The Northern Chachra has a fairly good soil, water is sufficiently near the surface to admit of easy irrigation from wells, and the parts beyond the reach of floods are fairly healthy. It cannot, however, be said to have prospered since the last settlement. The Southern Chachra, which contains the decayed town of Thánesar, is a very unfortunate tract, exposed to floods which are most capricious, with an exceedingly unhealthy climate, and with a soil which, where the floods from the hill streams do not reach, requires an abundant rainfall, which it too often fails to obtain. This tract was also much over-assessed at the last settlement and has never recovered itself."

The passage in the Financial Commissioner's review of the Karnál-Amballa Report from which this quotation is made goes on to notice the recent

immigration of Málí settlers into these Chachra circles. The question is one of much interest and of some importance to the future prosperity of this out-of-the-way and rather neglected portion of the Amballa district. There are small but strong settlements of Málís, mostly in the position of occupancy tenants, in many villages of the Kharar and Náráingarh tahsíls, and now that their holdings are becoming too small for increasing numbers to live on it is not uncommon for the more enterprising men to sell their petty occupancy holdings, and start fresh in the Pípli tahsíl with the proceeds. I quote Mr. Douie's notice of the subject from para. 31 of his final report :—

" The immigration of Málís of late years into Pípli from the northern tahsíls of Amballa, and even from Patiála, is a very hopeful movement. Málí immigration into Pípli. Their first large purchase was made in 1869, when they bought about 2,000 acres in Bir Babain from a member of the Kunjpura family. This estate, which was mostly waste when bought, is now the best village in the Northern Chachra. The next purchase was in 1873, and since then scarcely a year has passed in which Málís have not made large investments in land belonging to broken-down zamíndárs or to non-resident proprietors, money-lenders and others, who would never have extended cultivation. The number of purchases from the latter class is very satisfactory. Altogether since 1869 about 8,500 acres have been bought, and the prices entered in the deeds of sale aggregate Rs. 1,18,000. A division on ploughs of the land purchased is speedily effected, and the waste rapidly disappears. The first purchases were in the Northern, but the movement has now extended to the Southern, Chachra, and even to the Indri Nardak, where Málís from Kharar have recently bought a small estate from non-resident landlords. Only last year Málís of the same tahsíl and of Náráingarh purchased the whole of Devidáspur from a bania of the Amballa tahsíl and half of Ratgal from non-resident Shekhs of Kunjpura. Both these estates are near Thánesar. The prices paid are sometimes extraordinarily high. Thus in the case of Devidáspur an area of 389 acres was purchased for Rs. 20,000. It was all waste ; but the land is good, and there are some old wells which can again be put in order."

13. In closing this short introductory sketch of the district as a whole General remarks on the district. there are a few general remarks to be made. The district is essentially agricultural in the sense that the people have few resources besides their land. The only towns in the district with a population of any size are Amballa city with roughly 27,000 inhabitants, Amballa cantonments with 50,000, Rúpar with 9,000, Sadhaura in the Náráingarh tahsíl with 11,000, Jagádhri with 13,000, and Shakábad in the Pípli tahsíl with 11,000. Outside Amballa itself the only important centres of trade are Rúpar and Jagádhri, and these are important rather by comparison than on their merits. Considering the large numbers of the total population the number of really large and thriving villages is surprisingly small. This is partly accounted for by the fact that the petty but semi-independent Sikh Chiefs, who administered the district pretty much as they liked for the 80 years ending with 1847, had a direct interest in breaking up strong village communities and getting their lands cultivated by small bands of settlers who would be less liable to combine together for purposes of self-defence. Possibly from the same cause there is a great deficiency of leading men among the people, and a great want of enterprise all round. The jágírdárs who have quartered themselves over the district in all directions as a rule decline to undertake any more arduous task than the support of a bare existence on the proceeds of their jágír. Their example is followed by the agriculturists, and even where the pressure of small holdings is most severely felt it is comparatively rare to find men attempting to earn an outside living by taking service. Climate and social customs which forbid them to obtain assistance from the women of their households are against them. The standard of physique is poor except among the sturdier inhabitants of the north of the district, and the frequency of excessive floods in the autumn, bringing with them severe out-breaks of fever, saps the vitality of the people. The district is not, as a whole, prosperous, and even if we say that the people have only themselves to blame, the fact remains that they have more than the usual difficulty in holding their own in the country, and this has to be taken into account in judging of the results of the revised settlement. Allowing for changes in the area of the district, and excluding the population of Amballa Cantonment, the census statistics of 1868, 1881 and 1891 show that the population has remained nearly stationary during the last 25 years. If anything it has slightly declined between 1881 and 1891.

CHAPTER II.

SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE AND THE REVISION OF RECORDS.

14. In this section of the report I shall deal more particularly with the North-Amballa settlement, as the subjects connected with Explanatory settlement procedure and the reorganization of the Revenue staff have, as far as tahsils Jagádhri and Pípli are concerned, been discussed at length in chapter I. of the Karnál-Amballa Settlement Report.

15. The first move towards re-assessment of Amballa was made in 1879 Preliminary enquiry of when Mr. Steedman, then Settlement Officer of Jhang, was 1879. deputed to the district to make a preliminary enquiry as to the prospects of re-assessment. He reported to the Settlement Commissioner in a letter No. 84, dated 24th June 1879, that the patwáris of the district were, he believed, about the worst in the Punjab; that as a body they were deplorably inefficient; that only 121 out of 445 could write Urdu at all, the rest still compiling their records in Hindi; and that he feared that not even one quarter of the existing men would be able to assist in measurements or attestation. In forwarding Mr. Steedman's report to the Financial Commissioner the Settlement Commissioner wrote (para. 19 of No. 317, dated 25th July 1879):—"As regards the necessity for revising the record of rights the case seems to me to admit of little doubt. The patwáris are described as the worst in the Punjab," and later on "our offices are filled up with a vast mass of Hindi records which no one can read." The final orders on this reference directed that the re-settlement of Amballa should be taken up as soon as possible, and a further report was then made on tahsils Jagádhri and Pípli by Mr. Ibbetson in January 1880. Mr. Ibbetson estimated the increase of revenue in these tahsils at about a lakh on a present revenue of Rs. 4,70,000. After some further discussion the proposals for re-assessment of these tahsils were accepted and work was started by Mr. Thomson on the 1st May 1882.

16. In the meanwhile a further enquiry had been made regarding the Further report on North Amballa prospects. four northern tahsils by Mr. Gordon Walker in or about March 1880, his conclusion being that the re-assessment there might be estimated to bring in a total increase of Rs. 93,000 on a jama of Rs. 7,76,000, Rs. 48,600 of the increase going to Government and the rest to jágírdárs. In view of the not very promising prospects of the new settlement a further suggestion was made that the proceedings should be confined to re-assessment only, without revision of the record. In sending on the report the Settlement Commissioner was inclined to think that Mr. Walker had underestimated the probable increase of revenue, but he accepted the figures as justifying the undertaking, the settlement being then estimated to cost Rs. 3,70,000 to Government, after deducting receipts by settlement fees and contributions from jágírdárs. Colonel Wace was at the same time strongly opposed to any attempt at revised assessment without revision of record, and again wrote that the patwári agency was in respect of efficiency far below that of any other portion of the Punjab. The proposals were eventually sanctioned and I was sent to the district in February 1883, work being formally begun by a Notification dated the 1st March 1883.

17. On taking over charge I found that Mr. Walker had in the previous year organised a Training School for patwáris and provided a small establishment to teach them field survey work. Over one-third of the patwáris were, however, still Hindi-writing men, about one-third were new and utterly untrained men, and somewhat under a third were Urdu-writing men who had been through the school with good results. When starting the work Colonel Wace had made up his mind that the only possible way of getting this rather unpromising material into good order would be to insist on the patwári establishment doing the whole work of the settlement without outside assistance, and it was in this view that he issued to Mr. Douie and myself the "instructions" for the procedure in the Karnál and Amballa settlements which have since been amplified into the patwári rules

for the Punjab. The scheme was at the start looked on by the older Settlement officials as an impossible one to carry out in its entirety, and in the first instance it involved many months' delay in teaching not only the patwáris, but also a majority of the kánúngos, or as they were then called munsarims, and some officers of even higher rank who had not hitherto known what it was to work otherwise than with men ready trained in survey and record work. No concessions were however made, and though upwards of half the patwáris had to be gradually superseded by more competent men (relatives being selected in all cases in which the family was able to supply a young man with the necessary minimum of ability and education), it may be said that a fairly efficient establishment had been got together by the spring of 1884.

18. Thereafter matters began to work more smoothly, and had it been possible to retain the supervising establishment at the full establishment. Reduction of Settlement strength contemplated when the settlement was begun, the settlement work proper would probably have been completed in about the five years which it was originally anticipated to last. In 1885, however, the development of the kánúngo system throughout the Punjab necessitated the draft from Amballa of a number of trained kánúngos, and again in 1886 so many fresh demands were made that about the end of that year the sanctioned establishment of field kánúngos for the settlement had to be reduced to one-half, and this added much to the difficulty of pushing through the later stages of the work. Moreover, though I was nominally given the usual assistance of an Extra Assistant Settlement Officer from April 1883 to February 1886, the officer actually appointed was so frequently recalled to Ludhiána to finish up work in connection with the settlement there, that I was obliged to take up myself much of the work which would ordinarily be made over to an Extra Assistant. To add to the difficulty when this officer was finally transferred from the district in February 1886 it was nine months before another officer could be sent to take his place, and when he came he was very shortly afterwards compelled to take leave from illness, so that there was an actual gap of a full year during which I had to supervise the settlement without any assistance from a gazetted officer. This necessitated my continuing to inspect patwáris' papers and the work of the measuring parties for many months during which I had hoped to be able to devote my time more particularly to village inspection work for assessment purposes; and the postponement of the bulk of the assessment work until a late period in the operations was one of the main causes of delay in finally winding up the settlement.

19. New field maps were prepared by the patwáris for all villages in the district, the basis of the survey being the square system first introduced by Colonel Wace experimentally in Amballa. The unit of measurement prescribed was a chain of $47\frac{1}{2}$ feet consisting of 10 kadams of 57 inches, and 200 kadams was fixed as the size of the squares laid out through the villages. As noticed by Mr. Douie in para. 8 of his Karnál-Amballa Report there was a trifling error in the calculation of the kadam standard, the result of which is to very slightly exaggerate the areas as calculated by new measurements when converted into acres, but the discrepancy is too small to affect the accuracy of village area details. The maps of the first regular settlement were based on a scale of 40 gathás to the inch, the gatha being 99 inches, so that the scale was equivalent to 16 inches to the mile. The new maps now prepared are on the scale of 40 kadams of 57 inches to the inch, equivalent to 27·8 inches to the mile, except in a few villages where a double scale of 55·6 inches to the mile had to be used in consequence of minute field sub-division. In all ordinary cases of dispute, it will be found that the parties accept the new maps as correct; but, in case it should ever be necessary to go back to the old map, comparison can be readily made with the former records by taking 23 gathás as the equivalent of 40 of the kadams now in use.

20. The area unit adopted at last settlement in all tahsíls was the Shahjeháni or pakka bigah of $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of an acre, equal to 3,025 square yards. When the new settlement operations began a prolonged discussion took place as to the unit to be adopted. Colonel Wace was anxious to introduce some unit which the people would themselves understand, as it was found that though the pakka bigah had been prescribed

officially for over 30 years it had never really been adopted by the people, who still worked out all their cultivating arrangements by a local kacha bigah. The difficulty in the way of a satisfactory settlement was that the kacha bigah used by the people was not even approximately of the same size throughout Amballa. In the south of the district it was about one-fourth of the Government pakka bigah, and in the north five-eighteenths (at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ bigahs kacha to one bigah pakka). It was considered out of the question to have a different standard for parts of the same district, and at the same time it was essential to adopt some unit which would readily compare with the old pakka bigah. Mainly on the latter ground the ultimate decision was in favour of a kacha bigah standard, representing exactly $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the pakka bigah, that is $\frac{5}{24}$ of an acre or $1,008\frac{1}{3}$ square yards. A doubt has been sometimes expressed as to the wisdom of the change. I do not altogether share the doubt, and in the greater part of North Amballa at any rate the people generally accepted the new standard as more convenient than the old, notwithstanding its being somewhat larger than their own recognised kacha bigah. The latter, known in the district as the kacha bigah zamindári, will very possibly drop out of use when the people become more familiar with the new records. In the meantime, however, it has to be remembered that when an agriculturist speaks of a bigah he may be referring to his own kacha bigah roughly equivalent to one-sixth of an acre and not to the Government standard bigah, which is roughly one-fifth of an acre.

21. As connected with the question of the kacha bigah, though not

Kacha standards of strictly in its proper place in this report, it will be convenient to notice here that when a zamindár is describing the produce of a field he always states it in terms of kacha maunds to the kacha bigah. The maund used by him contains about 16 sérs pakka and as the bigah he refers to is about one-sixth of an acre, an outturn of one maund to the bigah is roughly equivalent to 100 sérs or $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds pakka to the acre. It is often part of a Revenue Officer's duty to calculate roughly the produce of a field, and the zamindárs themselves are excellent appraisers, except where they are personally interested in the matter. But as their kacha standard is not usually understood by Revenue officers their statements do not give much help. It will always be found easy to convert the kacha yield into an acre standard if it is remembered that every maund kacha per bigah represents $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds pakka or 100 sérs per acre. The calculation is not exact, but it is quite sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes, and the power to convert readily from one standard to the other will often be found useful.

22. To return to the new records, the instructions for the conduct of the settlement operations required the Settlement Officer,

The field register. as a rule, to file the original field register (*khasra*) as prepared in the field, only fairing this part of the record where absolutely necessary. The rule was kept to closely in North Amballa, and in the great majority of cases the *khasra* contained in the District office copy of the record is the original, irrespective of the number of corrections made by inspecting officers as the measurement work proceeded. In the earlier stages of the settlement before the patwáris became expert at their work, and while the new system was more or less on trial for all concerned, the number of corrections required was so large that I was compelled to fair the whole or part of the *khasra*. In such cases a note was made by the Superintendent at the beginning of the document referring to the order under which the copying was permitted. Generally speaking, however, the original was allowed to stand wherever it was sufficiently legible to be serviceable. I make this explanation in case officers who may have occasion to refer to the *khasra* in future years should have doubts as to the authenticity of the document where it appears to have been a good deal corrected. There need be no hesitation in accepting a corrected entry merely on that account. We were acting strictly according to orders in declining to improve the appearance of the record by the fairing process whenever it could be avoided. Some sacrifice of neatness had to be made, but there was really no other way of bringing the patwáris up to the mark than by making them understand from the first that whatever work was done in the field must be accurate as there would be no chance of revising it after it was once checked and passed.

23. Some further explanation is required also as to the system on which the new records were prepared. No village was measured until at least one year's jamabandi had been compiled bringing the old records up to date, and that jamabandi, or if necessary a second prepared in the following year, then formed the basis on which the register of holdings (*khatauni*) was prepared at new measurements. Thereafter one or more jamabandis were prepared on the new entries, according to the year in which the village was measured, until the final jamabandi in which the new assessment details were entered up after distribution of the revenue. This last or final jamabandi has been incorporated in the new record as the register of holdings. It was generally prepared either one or two years after the new measurements were complete, and as many changes may have taken place in the interval, the serial numbers of the holdings do not usually agree with the serial numbers given as a reference in the khasra. To remedy this an index is prefixed to the jamabandi giving the correspondence between holdings in this paper and the measurement khatauni to which the khasra refers. With a very little trouble it is always possible to trace holdings as given in the final jamabandi, through the measurement papers, back to the old records; and in cases of dispute the measurement khatauni can be obtained from the village bundle in which it has been filed. Every effort was made to ensure that the final jamabandi should be as accurate a document as possible, and for all ordinary purposes reference to this paper will be sufficient.

24. The instructions given to the Settlement Officers did not lay down very clearly what documents were to be considered to form the settlement record. The new settlement record. The papers prepared by Mr. Douie for Jagádhri and Pípli differed in some unimportant respects from those prepared in North Amballa, but the form of the new record is substantially the same for all tahsíls, and the arrangement of the papers was made by the Settlement Officers acting in concert so as to minimise wherever possible the inconvenience of separate control. The District office copy of the new record comprises the following documents in North Amballa, some slight variations for Jagádhri and Pípli being explained in para. 10 of Mr. Douie's report:—

- (1). In one or more volumes, according to the size of the village—
 - (a) Preliminary rubakár.
 - (b) Khasra or field register.
 - (c) Final jamabandi, with index showing the correspondence between holdings in this paper and the measurement khatauni.
 - (d) Memorandum stating the system on which the new revenue was distributed over holdings.
 - (e) Naksha chahát or list of wells.
 - (f) Fard lákhiráj or list of revenue-free assignments.
 - (g) Wájib-ul-arz or village administration paper.
- (2). In a separate portfolio—
 - (h) The new field map.
 - (i) Shajra nasb or pedigree table of landowners.

There are two complete copies of the above record, one in the custody of the District kánúnǵo and the other with the patwári. A supplementary volume containing copies of the documents numbered (c), (f) and (g) was filed in the tahsíls, to save the tahsíldárs from the necessity of calling for the patwári's copy of the record in every petty case requiring reference to the papers. Frequent amendments of the original tentative instructions issued by the Settlement Commissioner in 1883 caused some trouble when it came to binding up the new records, as different parts of the record had been prepared on sheets of different sizes, and this has detracted somewhat from the appearance, though not from the practical utility of the volumes.

25. The document numbered (d) in the above list is only an explanatory memorandum to show how the new assessment revenue entries against the holdings in the jamabandi were arrived at. The separate file containing full particulars of the báchh is to be found in the village bundle of revenue papers in the record-room. The subject of the báchh distribution is noticed again later on in para. 94. The statement (e)

is a survival from the practice of earlier settlements and not a paper of much real use in Amballa where new wells are rarely constructed. The list of assignments (*f*) includes a detail of all outstanding máfi assignments in the village at the close of the settlement with a reference to the correspondence authorising continuance of the máfi. It is a mere list for guidance and not authoritative, and when investigation into the terms of a máfi is required, reference should invariably be made to the separate máfi registers. The wájib-ul-árz (*g*) is, I am afraid, not a document of much real utility now. The wájib-ul-árz prepared at last settlement was a very lengthy document compiled on one uniform plan without much consideration of the circumstances of different villages, and it contained a mass of provisions on subjects which are now covered by law or rules made under the Revenue Act. These were cut out, but there remained a good many more or less obsolete clauses dealing with the rights of tenants in the waste, their right to cut trees in fields held by them with occupancy tenure, the right of village proprietors to levy miscellaneous (*atráfi*) dues from non-proprietary residents, and the definition of the dues payable by proprietors to village servants. These were all cases in which one party or the other objected, often with good reason, to the old entries as incorrect or obsolete. In such cases the Settlement Officer has to decide the dispute, but the rules give him practically no power to amend the entries unless with the consent of all parties. The result was not satisfactory, and unless a compromise could be effected the old entries had to stand. I did what I could to avoid disputes over this business, but a good many troublesome cases cropped up in which it would have been better if possible to take no action at all. The document, as it now stands, is very short, containing generally only 12 clauses, and if it will not do much good it may be hoped that it will at any rate do the minimum of harm. A carefully drawn clause was inserted in every copy reserving full rights to Government in respect of mines, quarries and other such products not taken into account in the new assessment. This clause if construed strictly entitles Government to royalty on the proceeds of small kankar block quarries which are found in a few villages near Rúpar, and on gold-washings from hill streams in a number of villages along the hills. It has not hitherto been the practice for Government to assert a claim in cases of the kind, except in the case of gold-washings in Kansal and Síswán of tabsíl Kharar, and I hope that the practice of dealing liberally with villages will continue whenever the amount in issue is (as at present) quite inconsiderable.

26. Besides the series of settlement records made over to the District
 Village bundle of revenue papers. kánún go he is also entrusted with the care of a separate bundle for each village containing the annual papers, alluvion records, khatauni and some other papers of a temporary nature prepared at new measurements, and the báchh record. The arrangement by which these papers have been separated from the general record-room and placed together in a detached branch of the record-room directly under the District kánún go, is a new one made at the close of settlement. It has worked well so far and saves the general record-keeper much trouble. The arrangements were made under detailed orders from the Financial Commissioner (Colonel Wace) in a note recorded by him in the District office minute book on the 3rd January 1889.

27. When the time for filing the new records in the District office
 Clearance of the vernacular record-room. was drawing near it was found that the vernacular record-room was already so full that it could not take the records. To avoid the expense of building a new record-room I was directed to undertake the systematic clearance of the existing old vernacular records of all kinds. This proved to be a laborious undertaking involving the examination of the contents of over 12,000 village bundles. It was necessary to proceed with care to avoid risk of destruction of important papers, and a whole series of registers and checks had to be devised for the guidance of an establishment of 20 vernacular clerks (mostly selected patwáris and kánún go). This establishment worked from July 1888 to January 1889, and carried out the business efficiently under the immediate superintendence of Bhai Arjan Singh, Extra Assistant Settlement Officer. The total number of entire files which it was found possible to destroy under the rules of the Chief Court and Financial Commissioners was 140,000, exclusive of a mass of miscellaneous papers, "B" papers and old

registers. The clearance effected was astonishing and the price realised for the 455 maunds of waste paper more than paid for the whole cost of the undertaking, including the pay of the kánúngos. This was satisfactory, and as the result we were able to find room for the new records, but if I had had any idea how much time and trouble were involved in the undertaking, I should have hesitated to attempt so formidable an addition to the ordinary work of a settlement, especially in the last year of operations. The best proof of how thoroughly the work was done is that up to the present there have been no complaints of our destruction of any files or papers subsequently required.

28. Village note-books have been prepared in English and Vernacular in the form prescribed by the current rules on the subject, Village note-books. and a separate copy of the Vernacular note-book is kept up by the patwári for each village in his circle. Notes on each village have been recorded by the Settlement Officers in the English copy kept by the District kánúngó, and in Vernacular by the Settlement Superintendents in the tahsíl copy. In the four northern tahsíls a small scale map of the village, reduced from the field map prepared at new measurements, has been added at the beginning in each of both English and Vernacular books. The want of a map of that kind is often felt by officers when reporting on particular villages, and I mention the point specially so that they may know where to find these maps when required. The statistical tables in the note-books have been so far written up to date, and the books will eventually be useful.

The English notes written in the books of the northern tahsíls were dictated by me to a short-hand writer from my assessment note-books, after the conclusion of the settlement, and this will account for the notes not being in my own handwriting. The assessment note-books referred to will be of more practical use to an officer who may at any time have to revise the assessment or investigate the condition of particular villages, as they are compact and give the essential statistics of a village at a glance. There are four volumes of these notes, one for each of the tahsíls Amballa, Kharar, Rúpar and Naráingarh. They have pages for each village giving a sketch map of the village as it stood at last settlement (taken from the revenue survey maps of 1849), with corrections showing the changes since made by the action of streams, and notes showing details of the soil in different parts of the village. The principal figures for soils, areas, revenue, alienations and crops (for the three years 1884-86) are added, with my own notes as originally made at village inspection and figures showing how the new assessment was gradually arrived at. I have made these books over to the District office and trust that they will be preserved with the greatest care. The amount of labour involved in their compilation, and the amount of information contained in them is very great, and if they are still available when the district again comes under assessment they will, it may be hoped, materially lighten the task of the Settlement Officer. The original intention had been to file these volumes very much as they stood without preparing a separate series of village notes, but in 1886 new orders were brought out introducing the separate village note-book system, and the change necessitated doing a very large amount of village note writing twice over at an inordinate expenditure of labour.

29. The good results of Colonel Wace's decision to work the settlement from the start with no outside help to the patwáris came to Patwáris. be seen more and more as the operations drew to a close. The hopelessly inefficient men were weeded out at an early stage of the settlement, and during the last three and-a-half years of work comparatively few changes were made in the patwári staff. The circles were revised and the boundaries made to coincide with the zaildári and kánúngó circles, while wherever possible the patwári had been selected from among the residents of the circle. In almost every case that patwári measured a part, and in most cases the greater part or the whole of his own circle, and this added to subsequent training in jamabandi and báchh work secured that he should have an intimate knowledge of the facts of his circle. The pay and position of these men was greatly improved during the settlement. In 1883 they were still getting the pay of their circles under the old Punjab practice, that is an allowance at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. calculated on the revenue of the circles whether the latter were large or small. In August of that year the pay was funded and the patwáris were graduated on an improved scale at Rs. 7, 9, and 11 a month according to their efficiency. Subsequent orders of

the Financial Commissioner (No. 344, dated 15th March 1886) again raised the scale so as to give a minimum pay of Rs. 9 to 20 per cent. of the men, Rs. 11 to 50 per cent., and Rs. 13 to the remaining 30 per cent. This scale is still in force. It involved a considerable excess over the receipts from the Patwári cess at the old rate of $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., the deficit being met up to the introduction of new assessments by payment from the settlement annual grant for unsanctioned establishment. Altogether in this way the settlement contributed Rs. 20,089 to the pay of patwáris. On the introduction of new assessments the cess was raised to Rs. 4-11-0 per cent. in all four tahsils of North Amballa, the same rate being taken by Mr. Douie in Jagádhri and Rs. 5-6-8 in Pípli. The Patwári Fund as handed over by me at the end of the settlement had a considerable balance at credit, and I think that with a cess at the sanctioned rates it will continue solvent, though with not very much to spare. It will not perhaps be out of place here to remind officers who have to work with the new records that the process of getting together a patwári establishment which could do the work at all presented much difficulty. The standard of education in the district was very low. The supply of men with even the minimum qualifications was barely up to the demand, though the schools were literally drained of every eligible school boy. Accuracy of work was regarded as the first essential, and if we could get that we had to be content with such moderate standard of neatness as the means at disposal enabled us to secure.

30. At the beginning of the settlement there was one kánúngo and one Kánúngos and other Revenue officials. náib-kánúngo in each talísil. These men were with two exceptions so utterly inefficient that sooner or later six of them had to resign or be dismissed. The District kánúngo also had to go towards the close of 1883, the cause in his case being not so much inefficiency as misconduct of a kind that could not be passed over. I filled his place with a Settlement Deputy Superintendent named Kirpa Rám, who worked well all through the settlement and still holds the post. On the introduction of the new kánúngos scheme for the Punjab in 1885, a staff of three Field and one Office kánúngo was sanctioned for each tahsíl together with an Assistant to the District kánúngo. I filled eight of these posts with men who had done good work as patwáris and the rest with settlement subordinates. They were all passed and certificated before the settlement ended, and they are all still in office and I am told doing well. There are several men among the patwáris of the district quite competent to qualify as kánúngos should vacancies occur, and there ought now to be little difficulty in keeping up an efficient staff. Several other officials from the settlement have been appointed to subordinate posts on the Revenue establishment of Amballa, and it will be some advantage to keep these men if possible in the district as they have an intimate knowledge of all that was done in the settlement, and are well acquainted with the system under which the new records were prepared.

31. As this section of the report has been mainly confined to the operations of the North-Amballa Settlement this is a convenient place to sum up the financial results of the settlement. As stated in para. 16 the settlement began in February 1883, but the establishment as usual came in, principally from Ludhiána, very gradually, and it was not till April 1884 that the staff was complete. The operations lasted till April 1889, the whole establishment having been transferred elsewhere by then, with the exception of a few men who remained attached to the District office for a short time longer till places could be found for them in other settlements. A good deal of work remained over for me personally after that, principally because in the last year of the settlement proper I had to undertake a number of heavy pieces of work which were made over to me more because it was difficult to find any one else for them than because they really formed part of a Settlement Officer's duties, but as far as the Settlement establishment was concerned the settlement closed in May 1889. The gross cost of the whole operations has been Rs. 4,46,581, or in round numbers about Rs. 4,50,000. From this should be deducted Rs. 11,143 recovered from landowners and tenants as cost price of the final parchas given to them from the settlement and a little over Rs. 9,000 realised in the form of process fees, leaving Rs. 4,30,000 as the real cost of the settle-

ment. The gross increase of revenue by new assessments is Rs. 1,17,611, so that the expense of the settlement as a whole is recovered in less than four years, which is a somewhat better result than was anticipated when it was undertaken.

The net result to Government is not quite so favourable, as a large proportion of the increase by new assessment goes to assignees. The contributions recovered from the assignees as their share of the cost of the settlement calculated under the standing orders on the subject have been as follows:—

	Rs.
From jágírdárs	78,809
" Masídárs	736
Total	79,545

Deducting this sum from the total cost of the settlement at Rs. 4,30,000 the net cost to Government has been Rs. 3,50,000. As against this the Government gain by assessment has been as follows:—

	Rs.
In revenue	69,173
In commutation money from jágírdárs	6,891
Total	76,064

so that it will take nearly five years to recoup Government for its outlay. Even so the result is not unfavourable judged by the ordinary standard that a settlement should pay its way in five years, and from the beginning it has been recognised that operations on a large scale in these northern tahsíls were to be undertaken not so much in the hope of any large increase of revenue as in view of the great and constantly increasing difficulty of carrying on revenue work efficiently in Amballa with a settlement record which was originally good, but had been allowed to fall completely out of date, and a patwári establishment more than ordinary inefficient.

I may mention here that I was in charge of the North-Amballa Settlement during the whole revision, except for three months in 1885 when Mr. T. J. Kennedy acted for me.

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CHAPTER III.

REVENUE HISTORY BEFORE THE REVISED SETTLEMENT.

32. The early history of Amballa has been described in great detail in Early history of the pages 9 to 34 of Mr. Wynyard's Settlement Report for the district. southern parganahs of the district, published in 1859, in pages 54 to 61 of the printed extracts from reports on the settlement of Thánesar, published in 1865, and in Sections I, III, IV and Appendix I of Mr. Melvill's Settlement Report for Northern Amballa. I shall have to refer to the subject in some detail in Chapter VI, when dealing with the history of the jágir assignments of the district, and I therefore propose to treat this part of the subject very briefly here.

The leading facts are that the country was overrun by Sikh invaders from beyond the Sutlej in 1763; that they divided it among themselves and ruled the place much as they pleased till 1809; that British protection was then announced by proclamation, the British Government asserting in return its right to lapses on failure of heirs among the independent Chiefs; and that the Amballa District was accordingly built up gradually as escheats fell in up to 1851, or as estates were confiscated for misconduct in 1847. The proceedings of the regular settlement of the whole Cis-Sutlej country were begun in the latter year, the intention at first being to settle only so much of the country as had passed into British hands. The settlement of the southern portion of the district was the work of many officers, but Mr. Wynyard had the principal share in the first instance, and he completed the assessment of a great part of tahsils Pípli, Amballa, Jagádhri and Naraíngarh. In 1852 it was finally resolved to settle jágir as well as khálsa villages and Mr. Melvill then completed Mr. Wynyard's work by assessing the jágir villages of Amballa and Jagádhri, besides finishing up what was left of Naraíngarh and working through the whole of the previously untouched tahsils of Rúpar and Kharar.

33. From 1855 onwards the assessments of the Amballa District as it then stood, that is of the present district less by tahsíl Pípli, remained unchanged with the exception of a revision by Mr. Melvill in 1859 of 20 villages in tahsíl Amballa and 31 villages in tahsíl Jagádhri. The reduction effected in the first case was Rs. 2,573 under the circumstances specified in para. 17 of the Assessment Report for tahsíl Amballa, and in the second case 19 per cent. of the revenue of the villages concerned as explained in para. 31 of the Report for Jagádhri. Meanwhile the Pípli tahsíl, at that time forming part of the Thánesar District, had been going through a series of no less than four revisions of assessment, of which the last was completed in 1861-62, after the severe famine of 1860-61.

From 1862 onwards the subsequent revenue history of the whole district including Pípli has been uneventful, in the sense that no further instances of general breakdown occurred involving revision of the assessment. The era of high prices for agricultural produce set in about 1860 and thereafter the condition of affairs was changed. The value of land ran up rapidly, and with it the credit of the landowning classes became very much better than it had ever been before. The consequence was that if a village got into difficulties, instead of clamouring for a reduction of assessment, as it would have done in the period 1850-1860, it took the much easier remedy of going to a money-lender and parting with its land. It should not be implied from this that glaring instances of over-assessment remained unnoticed in the subsequent 25 years during which the last settlement ran, but only that in judging of the work of the Settlement Officers of the past generation it should be freely recognised that their assessments were subjected during the earlier years to a very much more severe test than can now be applied.

34. The above is a general outline of the history of the district, but to save officers who may have occasion to refer to the history in greater detail from the trouble of collecting information from a number of detached reports, I fill in the outline with a rather fuller account of each tahsíl, taking the four northern tahsíls first. The Amballa tahsíl may be said to have been founded in 1839, when the number of escheats and the growing danger of the frontier led to the establishment of the Amballa Political Agency. Previously the lapse in 1823 of 63 villages held by Máí Dya Kaur, widow of Sardár Gurbakhsh Singh, had been the most important acquisition to British rule, and formed the nucleus of the present tahsíl. In 1843 the Sulhar parganah, consisting of 46 villages in the south-west, and agreeing roughly with the present Dakar-Amballa Circle, fell in with the escheat of the Kaithal State. The last great lapse was in 1850 when the Thánesar State settlement added a large section of country on the south-east known locally as Parganah Adhoa. These three main escheats covered 148 villages with a revenue of approximately Rs. 97,000, while another Rs. 30,000 was derived from scattered khálsa villages or Government shares in jágír villages. The remaining two-fifths of the tahsíl revenue is still jágír, the greater part of the assigned revenue in this tahsíl being cut up into comparatively insignificant shares divided among the pattídári jágírdárs, many of them resident in the Lahore, Amritsar and Ferozepore districts.

35. Summary settlements were made by a number of different officers as lapses occurred. They were invariably far too high, as was only to be expected, considering that the Government attempted to take in money the full equivalent of Sikh collections in kind. The assessing officers had practically nothing to guide them, except reported Sikh collections and estimates by local officials and arbitrators from the neighbourhood. It was to the interest of the still powerful and semi-independent Chiefs to secure that all revenues should be pitched at the highest figure, so as to give an excuse for increased exactions on their own part. Add to this that the assessments were often office calculations without local knowledge, and it is not wonderful that extraordinary mistakes were made. The Patti-Amballa villages were settled for 5, for $2\frac{1}{2}$ and for 20 years successively, and to the last the assessments remained very heavy. The Sulhar tract was still less fortunate, and was completely crippled by the outrageous assessments of 1843, 1846 and 1847. The Adhoa tract came under regular settlement in 1852, and though the summary settlements were far too high there also, yet comparatively little harm was done as they had run for less than three years. On the whole the revenue administration up to 1852 reflected little credit on the officers in charge, and till then compared unfavorably even with the exactions of the Sikh rulers, who admittedly recognised the people as entitled to only the barest subsistence.

36. At regular settlement the work was divided as follows, as nearly as can be now made out:—

Settlement Officer.	Year of settlement.	Number of villages.	Revenue.	Tract covered by settlement.
Mr Wynyard	1849-52	208	Rs. 1,55,826	The whole of the khálsa, except Parganah Sulhar, together with shared villages and others in which jágírdárs and zamíndárs agreed to assessment.
Mr. Bowring, Deputy Commissioner.	1853	52	34,670	Revised assessment of the Sulhar parganah.
Mr. Melvill	1854	44	23,332	All remaining jágír villages assessed under Government orders of February 1852.

Mr. Wynyard's best work seems to have been done in this tahsíl. His assessments were pronounced moderate at the time, and with the exception of the small reduction in Adhoa, referred to in para. 33, they stood the test of the

critical first ten years of the settlement very well. No other revision of his assessment was required, and the settlement may be considered fair, but by no means unduly light. Mr. Melville's share in the Amballa assessment needs no remark. He had little to do but to fix revenues in the 44 jágír villages left unassessed by Mr. Wynyard. He seems to have followed Mr. Wynyard's circle rates closely, and there is nothing to distinguish the work of the two officers in this tahsíl.

The Sulhar tract settled by Mr. Bowring comprised 52 villages in the south-west corner of the tahsíl, which had passed to Government on the lapse of the Kaithal State. It was left in a prosperous condition by the Kaithal rulers in 1843, but was hard pressed by the severity of our summary settlements in 1843 and 1846, and broke down hopelessly under a regular settlement made by Major Abbott in 1847. The total assessment of 1847 was much too high and the village distribution wilder still, with the result that by 1853 the par-ganah was almost entirely deserted. Mr. Bowring then did what he could. Large balances were let off, the total revenue demand was reduced by 33 per cent., and still greater relief was given by the proper village distribution of the revised revenue. The revenue was afterwards paid, but the tract is far from prosperous, and it looks as if it had never recovered the harsh treatment to which it was subjected during the first 10 years of our rule.

37. There have been bad failures of crops in the Amballa tahsíl. Failure of crops and revenue suspensions. in 1860-61, 1868-69, 1878-79 and 1883-84, the distress in the earlier two years at least amounting to actual famine, but the District Revenue reports seldom give sufficient details for separate tahsíls to make them of much use. Revenue has been suspended on three occasions only, and to the extent shown as under:—

YEAR.	Total suspensions for Amballa District.	Of which suspended in Amballa tahsíl	Subsequent Realizations.	
			Rs.	Rs.
1860-61	77,077	37,700		Rupees 20,778 remitted in 1862; of the balance, Rs. 18,129 collected in 1862-63, and the remaining Rs. 802 in 1863-64.
1868-69	45,500	19,800		Arrears collected in full in 1869-70.
1884-85	30,200	11,400		Revenue suspended in Rabi 1884, which was followed by two bumper crops in succession. All arrears but Rs. 500 were collected with the second (Rabi 1885).

As regards the effect of the 1860-61 suspensions, we have no information. The remission of Rs. 20,778 in 1862 was sanctioned by a general order of Government that not more than half the revenue for the year should remain in balance against any one village. This must have been a substantial help, and as the collection of the balance was not enforced hurriedly, it is safe to assume that the suspensions did good. As regards 1868-69 the people themselves say that more harm was done than good, the arrears being collected too soon. In 1884-85 the suspensions should have been on a larger scale to be effectual. The 1884 rabi failed badly, the failure being felt all the more as the three previous harvests at least had been well below the average. Proposals were made for the suspension of Rs. 29,600, which would have been a substantial help to the people. Unfortunately the issue of orders was delayed, and little more than a third of this sum was actually held over, and I am doubtful how far the villages really benefited.

On the whole however the tahsíl seems to have been treated in the past better than others of the district in respect of revenue management in bad years.

Tahsil Kharar. 38. There is nothing distinctive in the past history of the Kharar tahsíl, and till the regular settlement of 1853 one-fifth only of the tahsíl revenues had passed to us as by the following detail:—

Year of lapse.	Name of estate.	Number of villages.	Approximate revenue.	Now lapsed.
			Rs.	
1833	Mubárikpur	6	3,600	Escheat.
1837	Tira	5	3,000	Ditto.
1845	Sahoran	6	5,700	Confiscated from the Kaparthala State.
1847	Kurali	22	12,800	Confiscated from the Sodhi family.
1847	Khizrábad	21	7,500	Confiscated from the Sardár of Rúpar.
1850	Sahoran	2	900	Confiscated in a murder case.
1852	Babhat	3	2,600	Escheat re-granted in 1859 to Kuthar.
	Total ...	65	36,100	

There were in addition some Government shares in jágír villages, making up at most one-fifth of the tahsíl revenue. Since regular settlement there have been two important lapses on failure of heirs in the two following principal jágírs of the tahsíl:—

Year.	Estate.	Villages.	Revenue.
1866	Siálba	59	Rs. 26,000
1875	Manimájra	69	39,100

These additions, together with a few petty lapses (chiefly in the shared villages) have brought up the khalsa revenue to just over half the total for the tahsíl. The remaining half revenue is for the most part assigned to a few families of leading Sardárs, a large proportion going to the great Singhpuria family of tahsíl Rúpar, but some considerable items are minutely subdivided among a host of pattídári jágírdárs. In the different sections of the Cholián jágír there are over a thousand sharers receiving an average of Rs. 19 each, and in the Haftami jágírs nearly 600 sharers dividing a total sum of only Rs. 2,500, made up of small items in no less than 42 estates. Both from their number and complexity the pattídári jágírs constitute a more serious difficulty in this tahsíl than in any other part of the district.

39. In nearly half the tahsíl the jágírdárs continued to collect revenue in kind up to 1853, generally at two-fifths of the gross settlements of Kharar. Summary and regular produce. In the remaining half summary settlements were made by various officers at different times between 1847 and 1852. Little is known about them, but Mr. Melvill says that they were very unsatisfactory. Regular settlements had also been made in two small tracts by officers of the Political Agency. These ran till 1857 and 1862, but the revenues were all too high, the engagements were cancelled and the whole tahsíl included in one assessment. The regular settlement of the whole tahsíl was made by Mr. Melvill in 1853, and gave a reduction variously estimated at 16 to 19 per cent. on the previous demand. The Commissioner, writing in 1855, considered the assessment very moderate, and it continued to work well, without the necessity for any revision. The tahsíl is happy in having hardly any later revenue history, and contrasts in this respect favourably with Amballa and

Naráingarh. With the exception of Rs. 400 in 1868, revenue has never been suspended, even in what were years of famine for the rest of the district. This agrees with my own experience. During the four years immediately preceding the new assessment there were three distinctly bad harvests in Amballa generally but in each case the crops in Kharar have been much above the average of the district.

40. British acquisitions in the Rúpar tahsíl began in 1835, with the succession to the rich Morinda tract by escheat on the death of Rája Sangat Singh of Jínd. This country had already changed hands three times in rapid succession, and the circumstances of its final cession to Jínd, and of our acquisition in 1835, are given in detail in Punjab Rájás. The following table gives a sufficient account of the extension of British rights up to the regular settlement of 1853 :—

Year of lapse.	Name of estate.	Number of villages.	Approximate revenue.	How lapsed.
1835	Morinda	44	Rs. 34,400	Escheat from Jínd.
1841	Bhadal	6	1,600	Confiscated in a marder case.
1847	Rúpar	85	37,200	Confiscated from the Sardár of Rúpar for misbehaviour in the first Sikh war.
1847	Chamkor	51	37,400	Similarly confiscated from the Sodhi family.
1847	Alampur	11	3,400	Similarly confiscated from Kapurthala.
	Total ...	197	1,14,000	

There has been no important lapse since settlement, except Rs. 3,000 which accrued in 1866, as part of the Siálba estate of the Kharar tahsíl. Including Government revenue in shared villages, the total khálsa revenue under the old assessment was about Rs. 1,20,000, or a little over three-fifths of the total for the tahsíl.

41. Summary settlements were made for two-thirds of the tahsíl between 1846 and 1848, the remaining third continuing to pay revenue in kind to the jágírdárs up to 1853. The summary settlements are said to have been very unsuccessful, but apparently the distribution among villages was more in fault than the total revenue assessed, as the reduction given by the regular settlement of 1853 amounted to 9 per cent. only. Regular settlements had also been made by Major Mills, of the Amballa Political Agency, for the earlier acquisitions in the Morinda and Bhadal tracts. These ran till 1865, but in all, except seven villages, there was either no change or a reduction by the 1853 assessment, and the engagements were altered so as to make the period agree with the rest of the tahsíl. In these remaining seven villages slight enhancements were fixed to take effect as progressive increases of revenue in 1865.

Mr. Melvill assessed the whole tahsíl in 1853. The assessments as first announced were rather high, and in many cases reductions were given almost immediately, especially in the Bet circle. The Commissioner writing in 1855, considered the assessment to be perhaps somewhat high compared with the Kharar tahsíl, but thought that the revenue would be willingly paid in ordinary seasons. The settlement continued to work well, and there was no necessity for subsequent revision. As in Kharar revenue has practically never been suspended on account of general scarcity, and it is probably safe to say that the crops never fail, at any rate that there is no general failure.

42. The past history of the Naráingarh tahsíl is given in detail in paras. 107 to 130 of Mr. Wynyard's Settlement Report. The original settlers were Chauhán Rájpúts, who made this their head-quarters, whence they spread southwards through Amballa and eastwards through Jagádhri. The 84 Hindu and 85 Muhammadan villages of these

Chauháns are still well known in Náráingarh, and through all the changes of the last century they managed to a certain extent to hold their own against the Sikhs. The four Ráos, the hereditary heads of the clan, still hold large zamíndári rights in a number of villages. It is impossible not to feel some sympathy for these representatives of former power, but they are now distinguished by an immense sense of their own importance and a capacity for mismanaging their affairs, which unfortunately set the fashion for the tahsíl. In other respects the history of the tract is similar to that of Amballa and Kharar. For the first half of the present century about a third of the tahsíl was held by the Rája of Kapurthala, a third by other Sikh conquerors, and the remaining third, including the Morni iláka, by Rájpúts and the Sayyad Mír of Kotáha. There were no important cessions by lapse or confiscation in the days of the Amballa Political Agency, and the following table is sufficiently accurate as showing the growth of the main British acquisitions in the tahsíl :—

Year of lapse.	Name of estate.	Number of villages.	Approximate revenue.	How lapsed.
			Rs.	
1833	Májra	20	12,000	Escheat.
1840	Gadauli	5	5,400	Confiscated for misbehaviour.
1846	Lálpur Nagla ...	12	5,000	Escheat.
1847	Náráingarh and Bharog ...	89	55,000	Confiscated from Rája of Kapurthala for misbehaviour in 1st Sikh war.
	Total ...	126	77,400	

43. Summary settlements were made by the District Officers as lapses occurred. Both Settlement Officers and the Commissioner of Náráingarh noted these settlements as having been much too high, and in the last few years before regular settlement numbers of villages were let out in farm owing to their inability to take up the revenues fixed. The regular settlement of a third of the tahsíl (Parganahs Náráingarh and Bharog) was made by Mr. Wynyard in 1849, and of the khálsa villages in another third in 1851-52. The remaining third, together with all jágír villages in the tahsíl, was assessed by Mr. Melvill in 1853.

The whole of Mr. Melvill's assessments and so much of Mr. Wynyard's as were carried out in 1851-52 were moderate enough. But the earlier assessments of Náráingarh and Bharog, comprising 113 villages in some of the richest parts of the tahsíl, broke down hopelessly. The Commissioner noted in para. 27 of his review of the old Settlement Reports, that his recollections of Náráingarh were much less cheerful and promising than of Jagádhri or Amballa. A complaining tenantry, broken villages and deserted fields met his view on every side, and by his direction Mr. Melvill made a complete revision of the assessment in these tracts in 1854. The result was a substantial reduction of the revenue by 19 per cent. from Rs. 80,570 to Rs. 64,969, and this relief was pronounced sufficient. The process of revision is described fully by Mr. Melvill in paras. 251 to 286 of his Settlement Report, and there can be little doubt that it was urgently required in view of the extraordinarily low prices then prevailing.

On the whole the tahsíl was fairly assessed after the revision, though there was great inequality in the demand on individual villages. Revenue has been suspended on three occasions only, the first two being years of recognised famine and the third of severe scarcity. I do not think that the amounts suspended were large enough to do much real good, but the following table shows the amount of revenue suspended on each occasion, and the instalments by which it was realised :—

Year.	Suspension.	Subsequent realizations.
1860	Rs. 16,801	Rupees 1,737 remitted, and the balance collected Rs. 14,382 in 1862-63, and Rs. 682 in 1863-64.
1868	13,145	Rupees 11,692 collected in 1869-70, and the balance in the following year.
1884	7,933	Rupees 6,593 collected in Rabi 1885, Rs 1,162 in Kharif 1885, and Rs. 178 in 1886.

44. To make this section of the Report complete for the whole Amballa District, I supplement the above sketch of the nature and working of the old assessment in the northern tahsils with the following extracts from the corresponding section of Mr. Douie's final report dealing with tahsils Jagádhri and Pípli.

I have slightly abbreviated Mr. Douie's account where necessary, so as to confine it to matters concerning the present Amballa District.

The principal escheats in Jagádhri before the regular settlement are shown below, and a fuller list will be found in the Assessment Report :—

State.	Date of lapse.	Number of villages.	Summary settlements.
Bilaspur	1819	16	Heid khám for 3 years, settled by Captain Murray for 3, and Mr. (afterwards Sir) G. Clerk, first for 7, and secondly for 20 years.
Jagádhri	1829	36	Three settlements.
Buria Megh Singir	1896	28	Two settlements, first by Captain Murray, and second by Mr. Vansittart.
Milak	1841	15	Settled by Mr. Greathead.
Diálgarh	1851	16	Do. Mr. Bowring.

As each State lapsed, its villages were assessed for short periods. With one exception the summary settlements were extremely severe, and Mr. Wynyard remarks that Mr. Greathead's assessment of Milak was the only fair settlement he had seen in the Amballa District.

45. The regular settlement was made by Mr. Wynyard in 1849—52 ; Regular settlement of but 104 jágir estates, which had not been assessed when he Jagádhri, 1849—53 left the district in 1853, were settled by Mr. Philip Melvill. There are two jágir villages now included in the tahsíl which were transferred from Patiála 27 years ago, when they were assessed by Captain Busk. Mr. Wynyard's assessments became lighter and lighter as his work proceeded, and nearly the whole of Jagádhri had the good fortune to be assessed at the end of his settlement. Except in the Jamna Khádir where reductions had to be given, the demand was not heavy and its distribution was fair. Mr. Melvill adopted Mr. Wynyard's rates in assessing the jágir villages. Mr. Wynyard's irrigated rates were very moderate, but they were applied to too large an area, especially in the Jamna Khádir. The dry rates in the Khádir were severe, and experience soon showed that they could not be paid. For the first eight or nine years of the currency of the settlement the people were tried by an extraordinary fall of prices. In 1859, just before the turn of the tide, we find Mr. Melvill writing in his Annual Revenue Report : ' I fear the truth is that, unless prices become considerably higher, the zamíndárs will, year by year, find greater difficulty in paying the revenue.'

The assessment of the Northern Jamna Khádir had been made in 1849 and was marked by the over-estimate of the powers of the land and the resources of the people which characterised all Mr. Wynyard's earlier work. The thriftless Gujar land-

owners broke down at once. They had depended largely on their herds, but their cattle and household property were sold to meet the Government demand, and in 1855 Mr. Melvill found it necessary to revise the settlement. The revision affected 25 out of the 32 estates, and caused a reduction of 19 per cent. in the demand for the whole circle. The revenues of two of the Khádir Som villages were lowered at the same time.

As early as 1855 Mr. Melvill had realized the fact that similar measures must be adopted in the Southern Jamna Khádir. But unfortunately the revision there was only effected in 1859. In jágír estates the jágírdárs were allowed to claim the right of collecting in grain, if they objected to the reductions, and the zamíndárs who declined this arrangement could elect to continue to pay the revenue originally imposed. As a matter of fact only one village accepted batái, while two or three preferred to pay the old exorbitant rates. In the end reductions amounting to 19 per cent. were made in 31 villages. The total assessment of the circle was lowered by 11 per cent. Altogether Mr. Melvill reduced the revenue of the tahsil from Rs. 2,14,639 to Rs. 2,06,334. In the great famine of 1860-61 suspensions aggregating Rs. 22,369 were sanctioned. Of this amount Rs. 14,062 were finally remitted, and the recovery of the balance was spread over several years.

Escheats and summary
settlements in Pípli.

47. The chief lapses which contributed to form the khálsa part of the old Thánesar District are shown below:—

STATE.	Date of lapse.	Number of villages.	Summary settlement.
Rádsar	1828	46	Three settlements, second by Captain Murray.
Thánesar (Bhag Singh's $\frac{1}{8}$ ths share.)	1832	26	Three settlements, first by Captain Murray and last by Mr. Vansittart.
Kaithal	1843	86	Two settlements by Major (afterwards Sir) Henry Lawrence and Captain Abbott.
Ladwa	1846	117	Settled by Captain Abbott.
Thánesar (Bhang Singh's $\frac{3}{8}$ ths share.)	1850	16	Do. do Larkins.

The summary settlements were, with the exception of Captain Larkins' assessment of Thánesar, most oppressive. Captain Murray's system was to fix the revenue "by deducting pachotra, an allowance of about 5 per cent. from the average collections of preceding years." Thus he imposed a fixed cash demand estimated at the average value of the grain collections of the previous ruler, which fluctuated with the character of the seasons. In Ladwa Captain Abbott had for most villages returns of the Rája's realizations for the previous five years. He struck off the extra cesses, which he calculated to amount to $16\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the receipts by appraisement of crops and zabti rates, and took a cash assessment nearly equal to the balance. As the batái rate was one-third in some villages and one-fourth in others, which are the existing rent rates, Captain Abbott's assessment took for Government the whole of what we now call the owner's assets. Lambardárs received an allowance of 5 per cent. deducted from the revenue. Captain Larkins followed the same process, but he seems to have arrived at less immoderate results.

48. The lapsed villages of the Kaithal State, afterwards included in the regular settlement of Pípli, were assessed by Captain Larkins when he made the Thánesar 1848-1856. regular settlement of Kaithal. The rest of Pípli, with the exception of one estate settled by Mr. Philip Melvill, was included in the Thánesar settlement begun by Mr. Wynyard in 1848, and finished by Captain Larkins in 1856. The majority of the villages had been assessed before Mr. Wynyard left the district in 1852. Mr. Wynyard states that the end of all his enquiries was "to ascertain as nearly as possible the true rental, to leave

one-third of that for the zamindár's profits, and to fix the remaining two-thirds as the Government jama." It is quite clear that he intended to make a lenient assessment. He wrote himself: "I have always borne in mind that settlement, to be paid with ease, must be a light one, and I have never forgotten the constant injunctions that the assessment should be moderate. My remissions from the old jama are heavy." He inveighed against the incredible severity of some of the summary settlements, and the rigorous manner in which an exorbitant demand was wrung from the people by the Revenue Officers.

Nevertheless his own settlement, except in the Bet of the Márkanda, which was the last tract that he assessed, broke down utterly, and had to be revised by four different officers in the first ten years of its currency. The chief causes of the failure appear to have been four, for three of which the Settlement Officer was responsible, while the fourth arose from circumstances over which he had no control and which he could hardly have foreseen. These were:—

- (1). An over-measurement of well irrigated land.
- (2). An exorbitant assessment of the waste.
- (3). The severity of the rates imposed on the precarious dry cultivation.
- (4). The great fall of prices which began in 1851 and lasted till the famine of 1860-61.

In the parts of the district which he first settled Mr. Wynyard recorded and assessed as cháhi all land commanded by wells without any regard to the fact that, except close to the homesteads, only about half of the cháhi area is watered yearly. The number of wells in use was also over-estimated. When the waste area was large, heavy progressive assessments were imposed in the hope of forcing the land-owners to rapidly extend cultivation, which they had not the means or the inclination to do. Mr. Wynyard's cháhi rates were not in themselves exorbitant, though in practice they became so in consequence of the over-measurement of well lands, but his dry rates, especially for the poor dakar soils, were very severe, considering the precariousness of the crops.

In the annexed table his assumed prices for the principal grains are compared with the average prices received by zamindárs for the six years 1854 to 1859:—

	Wheat.	Gram.	Maizo.	Jowár.	Bújra.	Coarse rice.
Mr. Wynyard's assumed prices	37	40	43	42	42	55
Average prices received by zamindárs between 1854-1859.	45½	62½	53½	54	50	59½

Many of the villages had never been summarily settled, and the transition from grain to cash payments came at a particularly unlucky time.

The unfinished work of Mr. Wynyard's settlement was made over for completion to Captain Larkins, Deputy Commissioner of Thánesar, in the end of 1852, but it was soon found that, in very many instances, the villages already settled could not pay the revenue assessed upon them, and in March 1853 Captain Larkins was ordered to revise all Mr. Wynyard's assessments and to give relief where required. He reported on his work early in 1856.

49. In the next six years three other revisions followed, and ten years Revisions of regular settlement of Thánesar. after Mr. Wynyard left the district there were few estates settled by him outside the Márkanda Bet in which the original assessment had stood the test of experience. The result of the different revisions is shown below. The figures do not include revenue on numerous petty rent-free plots which were not assessed till after the last revision:—

Tract.	Regular Settlement by whom made.	Number of estates.	DEMAND OF REGULAR SETTLEMENT.		DEMAND RESULTING FROM REVISIONS BY		
			Initial.	Full.	Captain Larkins.	Captain Busk.	Captains Elphinstone and Davies.
Pípli (5 circles) {	Wynyard	376	Rs. 2,28,398	Rs. 2,48,424	Rs. ...	Rs. ...	Rs. ...
	Larkins	61	22,088	22,509	... ..	... ..	... ..
	Total ...	437	2,50,486	2,70,933	2,50,939	2,36,082	2,23,526
	Rate on cultivation ...	...	1 6 0	1 7 9	1 6 0	1 4 9	1 3 8

Generally speaking, Captain Larkins confined himself to striking off the heavy progressive assessments imposed on account of waste. He also reduced the demand when a comparison of the irrigated area recorded with the number of wells seemed to show that there had been an over-measurement of well lands. He failed to realize that the dry rates were much too high. His total demand was less than Mr. Wynyard's by $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. His returns were inaccurate, and his successor, Captain Busk, was ordered to revise them, and also to give further reductions where required. He reported the result in March 1857, but he appears to have given further relief in 1859. He clearly perceived that Mr. Wynyard's rates were too high, and he put the assessment in many circles considerably below that brought out by their application to the cultivated area. His revenue was lower than Captain Larkins' by nearly 7 per cent. Two revisions had left the demand 13 or 14 per cent. below that fixed by Mr. Wynyard. But distress in Thánessar appeared to be chronic, and the revenue continued to be realized with the greatest difficulty, coercive measures were constantly adopted, and farms and transfers of revenue paying land, and even of whole villages, were frequent. The work of revision was again undertaken by Captain Elphinstone in 1860. The Commissioner doubted the sufficiency of the relief granted; but before further action was taken the famine of 1860-61 occurred. After the famine a fresh revision was carried out by Captain (now Sir W. G.) Davies in the cold weather of 1861-62, and his proposals were sanctioned by Government two years later. Very large balances had occurred in the famine, and most of these were on his advice remitted. The result of four revisions was the lowering of the original full demand by Rs. 79,000 or 17 per cent. The reductions were least in the Márkanda Bet, where they only amounted to 31 per cent., and highest in the poor Southern Cháchra circle, where 37 per cent. of Mr. Wynyard's assessment was remitted.

50. The revenue history of Jágádhri and Pípli since the transfer of the latter tahsíl to Amballa in 1862 has not been a happy one. After 1859 no part of Jágádhri can be said to have suffered from a heavy assessment, but the land-owners have become deeply involved in debt, and nowhere in the Pímjáj has the money-lender a stronger grip on the land. The revision of settlement effected by Captain Davies in Pípli was coincident with a great and permanent rise of prices, and since then the tahsíl, with the important exceptions of the Southern, and part of the Northern Cháchra has enjoyed a moderate degree of prosperity. The un-prosperous tracts occupy from a fourth to a third of the present total area. They have suffered because they are unhealthy, and, while their harvests are most precarious, they have been subjected to a rigid revenue system, under which the full demand has been collected in good and bad seasons alike.

The history of the large Southern Cháchra circle is especially melancholy. Its resources have been steadily declining, its population lessening, and the Government demand shrinking ever since annexation, and revenue mismanagement must bear no small part of the blame. In the famine of 1868-69 Rs. 4,334 were suspended in Jágádhri, and Rs. 2,400 in Pípli.

Considering how widespread the distress was, and how long it lasted, so petty a measure can have done little good in the latter tahsíl. In the Southern Cháchra only Rs. 532 were suspended out of a revenue demand of Rs. 33,000. In the famine of 1877-79 no suspensions or remissions were made.

51. In compiling this summary of the previous fiscal history of the General conclusion regarding the old settlement district, I have not thought it necessary to discuss the revenue rates adopted by the Settlement Officers at the last settlement. The practice in those days was to divide the tahsíls for assessment purposes into a large number of circles and to apply a great multiplicity of rates, or more strictly speaking to give long tables of rates which they were supposed to have applied. As a fact they did not themselves adhere to their rates closely, and the detail given was little real guide to the character of the assessment. A sufficient account of these rates is given in the Assessment Reports and it would serve no useful purpose now to cover the same ground again. It may be taken generally that the old assessment of the district was fair enough in the end, but that in most tahsíls this end was only reached after a series of revisions and amendments each of which meant that the portion of the tahsíl affected had suffered a good deal before the remedy was applied. Another result of the piecemeal treatment undergone by the district was that more than the usual inequality of assessment survived in tracts of very similar character and even in the individual villages of the same tract. The great object of the new assessment has been to remedy this by particular attention to the distribution by villages of the total revenue fixed by tahsíls, and as far as a Settlement Officer's work can go it may be hoped that a good foundation has now been made. If however the general remarks made in paras. 4 and 13 of this Report are now recalled it will be recognised that the character of the assessment has been, and will continue to be, a much less important factor in the prosperity of the district than the character of the people.



CHAPTER IV.

THE ASSESSMENT OF NORTH AMBALLA.

52. The preliminary instructions to the Settlement Officers for both Preliminary instructions sections of the district were conveyed to them in the following for assessment. terms :—

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1871, and with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor desires that the following instructions be conveyed to the Officer in charge of the Settlement of Tahsils of the Amballa District, regarding the principle on which the land revenue of that district is to be assessed. The general principle of assessment to be followed is that the Government demand for land revenue shall not exceed the estimated value of half the net produce of an estate, or in other words one-half of the share of the produce of an estate ordinarily receivable by the landlord either in money or kind.

2. In applying this principle in the case of the portion of the district above named where produce rents prevail, special attention should be given by the Settlement Officer to produce estimates.

3. In estimating the land revenue demand the Settlement Officer will take into consideration all circumstances directly or indirectly bearing upon the assessment, such as rent rates where money rates exist, the habits and character of the people, the proximity of marts for the disposal of produce, facilities of communication, the incidence of past assessments, the existence of profits from grazing and the like. These and other considerations must be allowed their weight.

4. The gross assessments for each assessment circle having been framed by the Settlement Officer on the principles above indicated, revenue rates on soils may be deduced therefrom, and the proposed gross assessment, together with the proposed revenue rates must be reported to the Financial Commissioner for preliminary sanction ; and will, when sanctioned by the Financial Commissioner, form the basis of assessment of particular estates in the circle ; but in the assessment to be ultimately adopted, full consideration must be given to the special circumstances of each estate.

The principle laid down in rule 1 is to be observed in the assessment in each case.

53. In accordance with these instructions the separate Assessment Reports were submitted, and the new assessments introduced by the following dates :—

By the Settlement Officer, North Amballa :—

<i>Tract reported on.</i>	<i>Date of report.</i>	<i>New assessment introduced from</i>
1. Tahsíl Amballa	13th August 1887	Kharif 1887.
2. „ Kharar	7th September 1887	„ „
3. „ Rúpar	14th September 1887	„ „
4. „ Naráingarh (excluding Morni) 13th February 1888	... Kharif 1888.	
5. „ Morni Ilaka	January 1891	Kharif 1891.

By the Settlement Officer, Karnál-Amballa :—

6. Tahsíl Pípli	25th February 1887	Kharif 1887.
7. „ Jagádhri	February 1888	Kharif 1888.

54. The reports were preceded in each case by a memorandum dealing with the subject of agricultural prices during the previous Reports on prices. 40 years, and by a series of statements giving in detail the prices realised for principal articles of produce in each of these years for which separate figures could be obtained. The statements were arranged so as to show separately (1) the average prices reported in Government Gazettes or in Annual Revenue Reports ; (2) the retail trade prices prevailing in the larger towns of the tract ; and (3) the harvest prices actually realised by agriculturists in each tahsíl as shown by the traders' books in four or five large villages of the tahsíl.

The subject of prices was dealt with by each Settlement Officer once for all in respect of the whole tract under his charge shortly before the submission of his first Assessment Report. Mr. Douie's report on prices is appended to his Assessment Report of Indri in the Karnál District, and that for North Amballa is prefixed to a volume containing the three Assessment Reports of Amballa, Kharar and Rupar. The general conclusion for the Amballa District did not differ materially from that arrived at in the previous similar enquiries made in Ludhiána and Hoshiárpur. It was found that prices were fairly high during the period 1846—1850, which covered the period of conversion from payments in kind to payments in cash through the greater part of the district. It was on these high prices that the regular settlement was based. During the next ten years 1851—1860 prices were extraordinarily low, but on these nevertheless the revenue was paid. Taking the whole 15 years 1846—1860 to represent the prices by which the old settlement was supported, and comparing the average for this period with the average of continuous high prices during the next 25 years 1861—1885, it was found that in round numbers the value of raw produce had risen during the latter period by from 50 to 66 per cent. On the other hand it had to be considered that the rise in prices was not confined to the value of raw produce, but extended at least equally to the value of other articles on which the agriculturists depended for their living, particularly the wages of labour and price of bullocks. Further there was the indisputable fact that whatever the correct estimate of rise in prices might be the level had varied comparatively little during the previous 25 years. The people had therefore become accustomed to existing conditions for at least a generation, and any reduction in their present scale of living would be felt out of all proportion to the gains they might be making in comparison with the returns looked for by their fathers 35 years before.

55. It was felt that on these grounds alone it would be impossible to realise in the new assessments an increase of revenue at all proportionate to the apparently great rise in prices. In General conditions affecting the reassessment. framing their proposals the Settlement Officers were also guided to a considerable extent by the orders issued in recent cases of revision in other districts, the general drift of those orders being in the direction of great moderation in the assessment of tracts at all comparable to Amballa. Again it had to be considered that Amballa is cultivated almost entirely by petty proprietors with holdings rarely averaging more than 8 to 12 acres, and frequently falling as low as 5; that the people were not really prosperous in any considerable part of the district outside the Rúpar and Kharar tahsíls, and were more or less heavily involved in debt throughout the southern two-thirds of the district; and that they had in many parts suffered severely from over-assessment in the earlier of the old settlements. Lastly there was the peculiar feature of Amballa that so much of the revenue is assigned in perpetuity to jágírdárs, who have, in the case of the larger Sardárs, much more frequently than not grossly abused their position, while in the case of the minor fraternities of pattidári jágírdárs the assigned revenue is split up into so many fractional shares that even a large increase of revenue would practically be frittered away to little purpose.

56. These being the general factors in the case, I may now turn to the detailed results of the new assessment in each tahsíl. In the The Amballa tahsíl. Amballa tahsíl no accurate subdivision of the tahsíl by assessment circles was found possible. The general character of the country is much the same everywhere, a level tract of land varying in quality from a light sandy loam to the stiffest and most unworkable clay fit for little beyond rice cultivation. There is practically no irrigation. Villages vary in prosperity roughly according to the greater or less proportion of stiff clay (Dakar) soil contained within their limits, and this was taken as the basis for such subdivision as was attempted. The great mass of the tahsíl was thrown into one large Seoti or loam circle, containing 186 out of the total of 304 estates. The remaining poorer villages, usually containing a larger proportion of Dakar soil, were thrown into two minor circles lying mainly in detached blocks in the two parganahs of Amballa or Mulána, styled Dakar Amballa and Dakar Mulána comprising 61 and 57 estates respectively. Even in the Seoti circle however it is rare to find a village of any size free from some Dakar area, and as far as

an assessing officer is concerned it would have been almost as easy to deal with the tahsil as a whole without any assessment circles at all. The one clearly marked distinction between the Seoti and Dakar circles is in the density of population, which is only 432 to the square mile of cultivation in the Dakar Amballa circle, and 499 in the Dakar Mulána, as against 747 in the Seoti and an average of 655 for the tahsil, showing that the conditions of life are decidedly less favourable in the two smaller circles.

57. The revenue rates per acre proposed and sanctioned for the tahsil Revenue rates of Amballa and area to which applied. were as follows. It may be said here that in all the northern tahsils the area classed as gardens is chiefly that occupied by mango groves :—

CIRCLE.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Gardens.
			Rs. A. P.
Seoti	4 0 0	1 7 6	1 8 0
Dakar Amballa	2 8 0	1 0 0	1 8 0
Dakar Mulána	2 8 0	1 0 6	1 8 0

and the areas to which they were applied were as follows :—

CIRCLE.	Irrigated including chháhi and Ábi.	Unirrigated.	Gardens.	Total cultivation.
			Acres.	Acres.
Seoti	837	114,782	1,010	116,629
Dakar Amballa	183	24,489	49	24,721
Dakar Mulána	601	32,365	368	33,334
Total	1,621	171,636	1,427	174,684

The increase in cultivated area since last settlement had been comparatively unimportant, amounting to 4 per cent. only in the Seoti circle, 8 in Dakar Amballa, 12 in Dakar Mulána, and an average of 6 for the tahsil.

58. In the Seoti circle owners cultivate 71 per cent. of the land and Results of assessment, Seoti circle. occupancy tenants $8\frac{1}{2}$. Of the owners somewhat over two-fifths are good cultivators, mostly Hindu Jats. The rest are all indifferent or bad cultivators, and one-third of the circle is held by Rájpúts of the worst class as tillers of the soil. Rather over 3 per cent. of the cultivated land had been sold, and 15 per cent. mortgaged since last settlement and about half the sales and three-fifths of the mortgages were to professional money-lenders. The previous revenue of the circle as finally corrected was Rs. 1,56,455 and the revenue by sanctioned rates came to Rs. 1,73,446. The revenue as announced was slightly in excess of the estimate being Rs. 1,73,783 at once, with an addition of Rs. 113 to come in on account of protective leases to wells in future years. The total increase of assessment was therefore Rs. 17,441 or 11.2 per cent.

59. In the Dakar Amballa circle iron clay soil is greatly in excess. Rice is one of the principal crops, but the rice lands are poor and Dakar Amballa circle. choked with coarse grass, and the crop is very uncertain. The circle includes the majority of the Sulhar villages of which the previous over-assessment has been noticed in para. 36. Owners cultivate 80 per cent. of their lands, and a full three-fourths of the circle is in the hands of good cultivators. This is the one strong point of the circle, but against this must be set the unusually thin population, and the fact that land transfers since last settlement aggregated 19 per cent. of the cultivation. Half the sales and

two-thirds of the mortgages are to money-lenders, which is a very high proportion for a tract with a Jat population, the present evident want of prosperity in the tract being probably due in some measure to the extravagant demand made on the people from 1843 to 1853. The previous revenue of the circle, as finally corrected, came to Rs. 24,926 and the revenue by sanctioned rates to Rs. 25,109, it having been made clear in the Assessment Report that the intention was to reduce the revenue in a number of the poorer villages leaving the total demand on the circle much as it stood. This intention was carried out, and reductions, some of them considerable, were given in 19 out of the 61 estates, while there was either no change at all or only a nominal enhancement in many others. The full estimated revenue was however made up from the few strong villages of the circle, the total assessment announced being Rs. 25,050, giving a nominal increase of Rs. 124. In considering the reductions effected in this circle with the further experience gained later on I am doubtful whether they will generally do much good, but I have very little doubt that the villages were entitled to a reduced assessment before they could be said to be fairly assessed in comparison with others more fortunately situated. The tract can, under any circumstances, hardly ever prosper unless some turn of fortune in the future should cause the features of the country to be altered through a change in the course of the Ghaggar stream on one side or the Umla on the other. Changes of the kind have occurred in a few villages of this part altering their land almost at once from coarse clay soil to good alluvial loam. In the meanwhile however this circle will remain a specially weak spot in the tahsīl, and suspension of revenue may be frequently advisable.

60. The Dakar Mulāna circle is a very hopeless bit of country to assess. Four-fifths of the land is in the hands of bad cultivators mostly Chauhān Rājpūts. There are some prosperous Raien village in the circle and the proprietors there manage to make a good living and pay a fair revenue, but the Rājpūts can at best barely hold their own with good land and break down miserably where the conditions of the soil are such that farming will only pay at all with hard work and energy. Many of their villages are in a very bad way and the land transfers already cover upwards of 30 per cent. of the circle. The previous revenue was Rs. 32,685 and the assessment by rates Rs. 35,430. I followed the estimate closely taking a revenue of Rs. 35,483, giving an increase of Rs. 2,798 or 8·6 per cent. Parts of this circle are very similar to the adjoining Northern Chachra circle of Pipli, where the revenue has been increased by 10 per cent., but one-third of that increase is deferred in the form of progressive assessments. Allowing for the larger irrigated area in the Northern Chachra the assessment of the two circles falls at much the same rate per acre.

61. The following table sums up the results of the assessment in the tahsīl, including in the new revenue the Rs. 113 deferred on account of well leases in the Seoti circle:—

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		ASSESSMENT REPORT ESTIMATES.		REVENUE ACTUALLY IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Half assets estimate.	Revenue rate estimate.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
Seoti	Rs. 1,56,455	Rs. a. p. 1 5 5	Rs. 2,07,299	Rs. 1,73,416	Rs. 1,73,896	Rs. a. p. 1 7 10	Rs. 17,441	11
Dakar Amballa	24,926	1 0 2	23,762	25,019	25,050	1 0 3	124	...
Dakar Mulāna	32,685	0 15 8	40,043	35,430	35,483	1 1 0	2,798	8½
Total Tahsīl Amballa ...	2,14,066	1 3 7	2,71,104	2,33,895	2,34,429	1 5 6	20,363	9½

The revenue as announced is therefore some Rs. 500 only in excess of the sum proposed in the Assessment Report. This result was not arrived at till the detailed assessments given out by me had been closely examined by the Commissioner, who was inclined to hold strongly the view that even with all due allowance for many adverse circumstances bearing on the tahsīl, there was no sufficient reason for taking a revenue so much below the sum indicated by the produce estimate as being due to Government and the jágírdárs as a fair half assets share. The Commissioner supported his view with detailed remarks on the assessment proposed for a number of estates inspected by him shortly after the revenue had been given out. He gave me an opportunity of commenting on his remarks in each case, and these papers were before Government at the time of passing final orders on the Assessment Report. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor decided that on the whole as high a revenue had been taken as was safe or desirable, and that though there was room for doubt whether I had not gone too far below the standard of assessment here in fixing the rates and in the detailed assessments, these were in the end justified by the papers subsequently received, these papers throwing much additional light on the character of the assessment and the method adopted in making it. The subject was discussed at some length in the reviews and orders on the Amballa Report, and I need only say now that judging by the fuller experience gained in other tahsīls there is little doubt that the people would have accepted a somewhat higher assessment in Amballa without actual protest. I do not however think that any substantial increase on the sum actually taken would have been fair to the tahsīl, considering its capabilities with reference to other more highly assessed parts of the district.

62. The Kharar tahsīl comprises a densely populated tract of country

The Kharar tahsīl. surrounded on three sides by the Native States of Patiála, Kalsia and Nalagarh. The greater part of the tahsīl

is compact in shape, but there are three small isolated blocks of villages separated from it by native territory. It includes 391 estates covering 369 square miles, of which 235 only are cultivated, the large waste area being partly made up by a considerable stretch of barren hilly country in or under the Siwálik range. It is divided into six assessment circles, but by far the larger proportion of the revenue is paid by the rich tract of good alluvial loam occupying the centre of the tahsīl. This tract has been styled Seoti, as in Amballa, though for convenience it has been split up into two classes, Seoti I and II, comprising 121 and 130 estates respectively, the distinction in the case of Seoti II being that it covers the belt of slightly inferior land immediately adjoining the Ghar hilly circle of 51 estates. In the south of the tahsīl there is a small tract of either stiff clay, or poor undulating kalari soil, covering 50 estates classed as Dakar villages, and the rest of the tahsīl is made up of two small highly irrigated circles. Of these the Charsa circle in the west includes 13 estates with fine well irrigation, and the Neli on the south-east 26 estates lying in one block saturated with excessive irrigation by kuls from the Ghaggar. As between themselves the Seoti and Dakar circles represent about the same comparative fertility as the corresponding circles of Amballa, but both are far richer and more prosperous than their Amballa counterparts. The remaining three circles, Ghar, Charsa and Neli are quite unlike anything in Amballa, and there is nothing at all corresponding to the Neli anywhere in the district except in a few villages, also irrigated from the Ghaggar, within the Morni hill tract. Taken as a whole, and excluding the Neli, the Kharar tahsīl is strong, prosperous, healthy and densely populated, nearly two-thirds of the tahsīl being owned by good cultivators, principally Jats.

63. The revenue rates proposed and sanctioned and areas to which applied. for the tahsīl were as follows :—

Circle.							Chahi.	Abi.	Unirrigated.	Gardens.
							Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Seoti I	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 8 0	...	2 0 0	2 0 0
Seoti II	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 8 0	2 5 4	1 10 0	2 0 0
Dakar	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 0 0	...	1 4 0	2 0 0
Charsa	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 8 0	...	1 8 0	2 0 0
Ghar	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	...	1 1 0	2 0 0
Neli	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 5 4	1 2 0	2 0 0

and the areas to which they were applied as follows :—

Circle.	Cháhi	Abi.	Unirrigated.	Gardens.	Total.
					Acres.
Seoti I	555	...	47,561	1,218	49,334
Seoti II	496	1,288	41,443	1,441	44,668
Dakar	103	...	18,094	193	18,390
Charsa	531	...	6,030	31	6,592
Ghar	233	...	21,958	222	22,413
Neli	...	7,685	902	301	8,888
Total Taluk	1,918	8,973	135,988	3,406	150,285

The land classed as abi for assessment purposes is restricted to land which can be permanently irrigated in one or both harvests by the Ghaggar kuls. The cháhi areas, as assessed, whether in this or other talukas, cover only so much land as was ordinarily irrigated by wells on an average of three years, irrespective of the areas entered as cháhi in the records prepared at new measurements.

64. The soil in the first class Seoti circle is almost all a good loam. The Seoti circles I and II. and 70 per cent. of the land is owned by good cultivators, mostly Hindu Jats. The second class circle lies nearer the hills, and the soil is decidedly inferior in point of fertility though even here much more uniformly good than in the Seoti of Amballa. The second class circle is weaker than the first in its proprietary body also, upwards of half the land being owned by bad cultivators. Taken together these two circles are in a sound state of prosperity, and the villages are (comparatively speaking) not heavily involved in debt, the areas sold and mortgaged being somewhat under 3 and 9 per cent. respectively, while more than half these transfers are transactions among the agriculturists themselves. The revenue rate estimate contemplated an increase of Rs. 10,384 in the first circle and Rs. 11,302 in the second, but when it came to distributing the revenue I found it possible to assess considerably above the rates in Seoti I, taking an increase there of Rs. 12,876, inclusive of Rs. 13 deferred assessment on account of well leases. This increase fell at $14\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. on the old revenue, and the richer villages of the circle are assessed at an all-round rate of about Rs. 2-8-0 an acre. The increase actually taken in Seoti II was Rs. 11,237, being a trifle under the estimated amount by revenue rates, but this increase is at $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and some of the villages in this circle also are assessed at an all-round rate of upwards of two rupees an acre. These rates sound rather high for the Amballa District, especially as the population of the circles is dense, being 819 to the square mile cultivated in Seoti I and 706 in Seoti II. They are however not higher than the rates adopted in tracts of corresponding fertility in neighbouring districts, and there is little doubt that the new revenue will be paid without difficulty.

65. The old assessment of the small Dakar circle was very unequal, and though the villages were not actually unprosperous it was pointed out in the Assessment Report that there was little ground for substantial enhancement of revenue. I then estimated for an increase of Rs. 1,355 at 6 per cent. on the old demand. I have actually taken Rs. 1,787 at 8 per cent. The small addition of Rs. 432 above the revenue rate estimate is due to the fact that when reporting I thought it might be necessary to reduce the demand on some of the regular Dakar villages, but eventually decided that reduction was not actually necessary and that it would be sufficient to leave the revenue in these villages about where it stood.

66. The 13 estates of the Charsa circle were assessed extraordinarily low at last settlement in comparison with villages of the Dhaia circle in the Rúpar tahsíl, which they most nearly resemble. The Charsa circle.

There had moreover been an increase of 15 per cent. in cultivation in this circle, and the number of good wells from which it takes its name makes land very valuable. The previous light assessment seems to have been due to an oversight on the part of Mr. Melvill. I estimated for an increase of Rs. 2,915 on an existing revenue of Rs. 8,050, and the amount actually taken was Rs. 2,899 including Rs. 25 still to accrue on account of well leases. The revenue was accepted without murmuring, and even with this large enhancement of 36 per cent. the circle is still about the lightest assessed tract in the district considering its fertility and resources. In para. 6 of his review of the Assessment Report the Financial Commissioner authorised me to take a revenue somewhat below the revenue rate estimate (if desired) in both the Seoti II and Charsa circles, but on going over the villages again it did not seem to be necessary to alter the estimate materially.

67. In the Ghar circle there had been a real increase of 40 per cent. in the cultivated area, and as against this I proposed to The Ghar circle. enhance the revenue by 28½ per cent. The Financial Com-

missioner directed me to limit the increase to 25 per cent., taking into consideration the poor soil and many difficulties in the way of making a good living in a poor hilly tract of this kind. The gross assessment actually imposed shows an enhancement of Rs. 5,048 amounting to nearly 26 per cent. of the old demand. Out of this sum however Rs. 650 represents a nominal assessment on two new jágir villages Bír Ferozri and Bír Babupur established by the jágírdár of Bareli after the last settlement in a large waste tract not previously assessed. Deducting this sum as not really affecting the actual demand on the villagers of the circle, the true enhancement is somewhat under 23 per cent., which will perhaps be accepted as a sufficient compliance with the orders. In some of the smaller villages where the increase in cultivation had been very large the new revenue is from 50 to 100 per cent. higher than the old. In all such cases the rate per aere is still far below the sanctioned rate of Rs. 1-1-0 for unirrigated land, and the assessment is still moderate.

68. The assessment of the Neli circle presented unusual difficulties The Neli circle. owing to the peculiar physical features of this very unhealthy tract. One-tenth only of the cultivation is here unirrigated, including some Ghar lands in the hills. The remaining nine-tenths, including the whole plains cultivation, is irrigable by ducts from the Ghaggar. Unlimited water-supply has led to perpetual over-irrigation, and the tract is notorious for its dense vegetation and deadly climate. Mr. Melvill wrote about the tract in the following terms:—

“These villages are frightfully under-populated. The reason of this smallness of the population is that the irrigation is most pernicious to health. There are but few wells, and the Ghaggar water is drunk.”

“Fever is extensively prevalent as is proved by the distended spleen of almost every third man. Ask a man to run a hundred yards alongside of your horse, and he is immediately stopped by a coughing fit, whereas a Jat, living out of the influence of the irrigation, will run a couple of miles with the greatest ease. Goitre is very prevalent, and it is by no means uncommon to find four, five or six creatures, of deformed minds and bodies, in a single village. Men die out in the fourth generation. The people have no heart, and no strength. What then can be expected from a soil, if ever so fertile, with enfeebled and thinly scattered cultivators? And the worst of it is that the evil will always exist so long as the irrigation continues. In fact it is only the prospect of obtaining immense outturns to their labour that induces men to settle here.”

The description still holds good, and the only point on which Mr. Melvill was perhaps misled was as to the sufficiency of the total population. It is true that village after village was, and still is, uninhabited, the reason being that the people crowded into the town of Manimájra, as being the only place where life was tolerable under the conditions of the tract. This meant short work, lax supervision, and generally all that goes to make up bad farming, but the total population of the circle was then over 800 per square mile cultivated, and is

still over 700, which is not noticeably thin. Even allowing for an unusual proportion of non-agriculturists there were probably hands enough for the land, though distributed in such a way as to make proper cultivation an impossibility. It is doubtful whether any improvement has yet taken place in the tract. The climate is supposed to have somewhat improved, but there is little either in the statistics, or in the appearance of the people to support the statement.

69. Upwards of 60 per cent. of the cultivated land of the circle has Land transfer in the Neli. been transferred to outside purchasers since last settlement, and in most of these transactions the price realised was very low, quite out of proportion to the high assessment of the circle which falls at an all-round rate of over two rupees an acre. The rapidity with which land was changing hands early attracted attention. Mr. Melvill returned to the district as Deputy Commissioner in 1858, and made a careful inquiry, coming to the conclusion that the circle had certainly been assessed by him rather heavily, in some cases much too high, but that this was not the cause of the break down. He regarded it as inevitable that the villages should die out owing to the deadly climate, and gave it as his deliberate opinion that the faster villages were brought up by capitalists the better. Government would at any rate then have some security for the payment of its revenue, and the people would be no worse off than before. He did not recommend revision of assessment, even where his revenues were admittedly too high. A reduction would not really benefit the villages, and the speculating purchasers must take their chance of loss. There was no difficulty in finding purchasers, and it was for them to count the cost, while it was suggested that the mere fact of the risk of loss might lead them to exert themselves to improve the condition of the tract.

This statement of the case was accepted with some hesitation, and it was finally determined to let matters take their course. The result is much what was expected. The villagers have perhaps held their own rather better than was hoped, but large areas have been bought up by speculators, who are nearly all non-resident, and, if they may be believed, have nearly all lost by their investments. The condition of things is as unsound as it well could be, and much increases the difficulties in the way of effecting a permanent improvement in the tract by a revision of the irrigating arrangements.

70. In the assessment I proposed a small increase of 5 per cent. which Assessment of the Neli. would fall on the new cultivation or on villages formerly assessed for special reasons far below the prevailing rates, leaving the general assessment much as it stood. The ground taken was that nothing would be gained by reducing revenue, the question having been thoroughly discussed in 1858-59, and the arguments then used against reduction applying with all the more force now. It was however proposed that the new assessment of the circle should in the first instance be sanctioned for five years only, in view of the possibility of taking the whole system of water distribution in hand and revising the arrangements so as to prevent over-irrigation and waste of water, while at the same time securing prompt clearance of the channels and a regular supply to the more distant villages. This proposal was sanctioned, and in carrying it out the only alteration made was that instead of an increase of Rs. 977 at 5 per cent. it was found possible by a better distribution of the revenue to take Rs. 1,846 at nearly 10 per cent. without materially adding to the difficulties of the tract. Shortly after the new assessment was announced the Commissioner made a thorough enquiry as to the possibility of revising the arrangements for irrigation. I have referred to the subject again in Chapter VII, and it is enough to say here that the conclusion arrived at was that no remedy of the kind was practicable. It was decided that if any improvement was to be effected, it could only be done by introducing a fluctuating assessment based on crop rates designed to discourage continuous rice cultivation and promote the extension of indigo and other crops likely to restore the fertility of an exhausted soil. It was further decided to take no immediate steps in that direction until the results could be seen of a similar experiment then being undertaken in some neighbouring villages of the Kalsia State where much the same difficulties had occurred. The five years for

which the assessment was sanctioned have now expired, but I understand that the results of the Kalsia experiment are not yet definite enough to justify extension of the fluctuating assessment system to the Kharar Neli. I am inclined to think that the disadvantages of fluctuating assessment would on the whole outweigh any possible gain to the tract in the way of health at the expense of the loss of the valuable rice cultivation on which it largely depends, and of a complete upsetting of existing cultivating arrangements. If however the Kalsia experiment should turn out an unqualified success, it may be advisable to try a change in the Neli. The hands of Government will be free as in the meantime my fixed assessment will run from year to year only. At the same time it will have to be recognised that a fluctuating assessment can only be introduced in the face of very strong protest from the existing proprietors of the Neli, and that it will probably mean some sacrifice of revenue by Government.

71. The following table summarises the results of the new assessment *Summary of results in in Kharar, the amounts shown as now revenue including tahsíl Kharar.* the items of Rs. 13 and Rs. 25, deferred on account of well leases in the Seoti I and Charsa circles :—

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		ASSESSMENT REPORT ESTIMATES.		REVENUE ACTUALLY IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Half assets estimate.	Revenue rate estimate.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
Seoti I	Rs. 89,704	Rs. a. p. 1 13 1	Rs. 1,18,301	Rs. 1,00,055	Rs. 1,02,580	Rs. a. p. 2 1 3	Rs. 12,876	14½
Seoti II	64,145	1 7 0	91,527	75,464	75,382	1 11 0	11,237	17½
Dukar	22,069	1 3 2	26,481	23,416	23,856	1 4 9	1,787	8
Charsa	8,051	1 3 6	13,642	10,965	10,950	1 10 7	2,899	36
Ghár	19,435	0 18 11	27,096	24,939	24,483	1 1 6	5,048	26
Neli	18,595	2 1 5	19,283	19,549	20,411	2 4 10	1,846	10
Total tahsíl Kharar ...	2,21,999	1 7 8	2,06,330	2,54,388	2,57,692	1 11 5	35,093	16

The increase taken was substantial but the assessment was well received in all parts of the tahsíl.

72. The Rúpar tahsíl is a small subdivision in the extreme north of the district, comprising 386 villages with a total area of 288 square miles of which 182 are cultivated. It is inconveniently far from Amballa and by situation would more suitably be annexed to the Ludhiána district. The question has often been discussed whether the tahsíl ought not to be transferred to Ludhiána so as to make the two districts less disproportionate in size and administrative importance. The difficulty of making any satisfactory arrangement of the kind lies in the fact that the jágir and Court of Wards estates of the two tahsíls Kharar and Rúpar are so closely connected that it would be impossible to redistribute the area in any way without causing much practical inconvenience. In the interests alike of the people and of Government it may be hoped that no such partition will ever be attempted.

Generally speaking, and excluding the Ghar billy tract which is similar to the corresponding Kharar circle, the tahsíl is healthy and prosperous, with good loam soil and a large area of rich alluvial soil. Even in the fine uplands however there are some blocks of coarse clay soil and large tracts of sandy land in irregular patches following roughly the old or present courses of destructive torrents from the hills, while the large riverain tract along the Sutlej comprises land of every quality from the best to the worst in the district. The assessment circles here follow well defined natural divisions and are substantially the same as fixed by

Mr. Melvill at last settlement. The Bet river tract includes 144 estates and the Ghar billy circle 48, while there is a small Ghar-Bet circle of 23 villages lying partly in the Ghar and partly in the Bet, which need not perhaps have been separately demarcated. The remaining Dhaia circle of 171 villages covering the whole southern half of the tahsil includes the up-lands and some undulating low-lands which it was not worth while to throw into a separate circle, though their physical features are different from the true up-lands. The Dhaia is on the whole a very fine bit of country with good irrigating wells all over the western half of the circle. It is in the hands of a strong Jat population and pays over three-fifths of the revenue of the tahsil. The tahsil is densely populated throughout, the pressure varying from 700 to over 1,000 per square mile cultivated in different circles. Small holdings are consequently the rule, but the people are full of resource, and always seem to have plenty of money to spend on their land or more often waste in gambling in the Law Courts. The construction of the Sirhind Canal since last settlement, with its head works at Rúpar, has done much both to alter the face of the country for good and bad, and to sharpen the wits of the people who earned much money in one way or another during the long series of years in which the works were in progress. The canal runs for 14 miles through the tahsil, though there is practically no canal irrigation till much lower down on its course.

Revenue rates and areas
to which applied.

73. The revenue rates per acre cultivated, proposed and sanctioned were as follows:—

Circle.	Irrigated.	Sailáb.	Báráni.	Garden.	Grazing rate on waste.
Bet	Rs. a. p. 5 0 0	Rs. a. p. 1 4 0	Rs. a. p. 2 2 0	Rs. a. p. 2 0 0	Rs. a. p. 0 1 0
Dhaia	3 12 0	...	1 12 0	2 0 0	...
Ghar-Bet	3 0 0	{ Bet ... Ghar ...	1 12 0 1 1 0	2 0 0	...
Ghar	4 0 0	...	1 1 0	2 0 0	...

and the areas to which they were applied were as follows:—

Circle.	Irrigated.	Sailab.	Unirrigated.	Gardens.	Total.
Bet	749	3,750	23,815	131	28,445
Dhaia	10,737	...	57,981	471	69,189
Ghar-Bet	336	...	{ Ghar ... 2,684 Bet ... 3,202 }	55	6,277
Ghar	28	...	12,499	30	12,557
Total	11,850	3,750	100,181	687	116,468

The area classed as irrigated for assessment purposes includes all land irrigated by wells on an average deduced from the actual facts of irrigation for three years, together with a small area of ábi land irrigated by hill streams in the Ghar-Bet circle. In the other circles no account was taken of a little occasional ábi irrigation from ponds or streams, the land affected being included in the unirrigated area for assessment.

74. The Bet circle has suffered much from incursions by the Sutlej since last settlement. It is divided into the permanent ^{The Bet circle.} or pakka Bet, and the "Mand" that is the tract subject to annual inundation. The whole Mand tract is extremely poor soil, altogether differing in this respect from the kacha tracts as described for the Samrála and Ludhiána tahsils on the west. It is now a huge, dreary waste of sand and river-bed, with large islands mostly covered with coarse grasses and stunted tamarisk bushes. It includes two-fifths of the entire Bet circle, but less than a seventh of the cultivation, and all of this of the poorest description, except for occasional plots growing sugar-cane one year, and perhaps washed away the next. The permanent land is ordinarily a rich alluvial plain of great fertility. The exceptions are a bad tract of coarse clay soil on the west, by the sources of the Budha Nala, and the numerous sandy wastes marking the former beds of the hill-streams. Parts of the circle are extraordinarily rich, but much cut up by these streams, and by the canal protection works, and, on the whole the circle is not very prosperous. The people have lost heavily by the river on one side, and the canal on the other, and they now no longer get rich silt washed down from the Dhaia. Holdings are extremely small especially in a cluster of highly assessed Saini villages lying to the north of Rúpar. The actual river frontage is mostly in the hands of Mussalmán Jats, a well-behaved but somewhat feeble set of men largely dependent on advances from money-lenders to enable them to hold their own in the constant struggle with the caprices of the river. The old assessment was shown in the report as standing at Rs. 53,304 and on that I proposed to take an increase of Rs. 6,105 at $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Corrections made on account of alluvion assessments after submission of the report brought the old revenue up to Rs. 54,230, so that though the new assessment was fully up to the revenue ratio estimate the actual increase finally shown by the papers was only Rs. 5,222 or a little under 10 per cent. In distributing the revenue on villages lying wholly or partly in the Mand, opportunity was taken to assess the whole of the kacha lands at the rates which had been employed for the three previous years in the annual assessments for river villages. These rates were as follows :—

Rs.

2-8-0 Per acre for good sugar-cane land only.

1-8-0

1-0-0 } Varying rates adjusted from year to year as necessary, and based primarily
0-8-0 } on the crops grown.

0-1-0 Grazing rate on all waste land which is not absolutely useless.

The method of assessment employed was in the case of villages lying wholly in the Mand, to classify all the cultivated land as it stood immediately before the new revenue was imposed, under one or other of the above classes according to its quality, to apply the rate considered appropriate and to then work out the calculation and announce the result as the new revenue. In villages lying partly on the pakka the gross assessment on the entire village was first announced, and subsequently distributed by assessing the Mand lands as above, and subtracting the Mand assessment from the total revenue, the balance being considered the assessment on the pakka lands and báchhed accordingly.

This procedure enabled us to finally clear up the very intricate accounts of the river villages which had got into great confusion before the revision operations began. All land actually in the river bed at the time the new revenue was fixed is assessed at uniform rates, and though this land may rise or fall from one class to another in future years, according as it improves or deteriorates in quality, it will always remain assessed on a fixed scale irrespective of the báchh rate on pakka lands in the same or neighbouring villages. Much trouble was taken to work the system out and obtain correct lists of fields, or rather areas, showing accurately how they had been classed, and there should be no difficulty now in carrying on the system so that the villages may always know how much they have to pay on their Mand lands, and why. There are no permanent field divisions in the Mand tract, and the process of keeping the maps and records up to date must always be troublesome, but the simplification effected by the way in which the assessments were fixed is so great

that the patwáris and subordinate Revenue officials cannot easily go far wrong in future. The subject of the annual assessments is noticed again in Chapter VII. The rates per kacha bigah of the Government standard, corresponding to the acreage rates adopted are as follows :—

2½ pies per bigah for grazing waste ;

1½ annas, 3½ annas and 5 annas per bigah respectively for ordinary cultivated lands of the first, second or third class ;

8 annas per bigah for good sugar-cane land.

75. The Dhaia circle is cultivated to the extent of 84 per cent. by the proprietors themselves, and as fully 70 per cent. of the land is in the hands of strong Jat communities it is in a flourishing condition. The proportion of cultivated land transferred is 2 per cent. for sales and 8 per cent. for mortgages, but the villages really heavily involved are a few owned by Rájput and other inferior cultivators. The Jats are always ready to buy up land, and out of the total transfers only two-fifths of the mortgages and less than one-fifth of the sales have passed out of the hands of the zamíndárs. The only inferior part of the circle comprises some 25 villages bordering on the actual Dhaia bank where a constant struggle has to be kept up against the inroads of sand. There are fine wells all through the tract, 15½ per cent. of the cultivation being irrigated on an average of three years, and probably at least 25 per cent. in a year of drought. The villages are strong, and the country looks decidedly prosperous, the greatest possible contrast with the southern portions of the district. In those lowlands which have, for convenience, been included in the Dhaia circle, the soil is a lighter loam corresponding more with the Seoti circles of the Kharar tahsíl. The water level is here much higher, and irrigation little needed.

The well irrigation in the Dhaia is of much importance, especially for the wheat and sugar-cane crops, which on the average occupy 53 per cent. and 19 per cent. respectively of the irrigated area. It is these two crops which make the irrigation so valuable, and in particular, the contrast between the irrigated and unirrigated wheat in the true uplands is most marked. The wells are laborious and expensive to work, and the Jats habitually contrast their own life unfavourably with their neighbours' in the loam villages of both Kharar and Rúpar, and there is no doubt they have to exert themselves more. At the same time they are more than repaid by the heavier yield, and greater certainty of cropping. There can be no doubt that the wells pay handsomely in spite of the fact that there is little difference in the total area of crops raised whether from the irrigated or unirrigated lands.

The increased revenue proposed in the Assessment Report was Rs. 21,621, but in the distribution the assessment was a little above rates, giving an enhancement of Rs. 22,238 or 18½ per cent., though reductions of revenue aggregating Rs. 850 were allowed in the case of 13 small villages which had suffered severely from sand or swamp. In most of these cases of a reduced demand the injury done to the villages had been largely due to the alignment of the canal or of training works designed to protect the canal from hill streams. It was of course unavoidable in the interests of the canal, but I thought it well to deal liberally with cases of the kind, and in several other instances I left the revenue with little or no change where the lands of a village had been badly cut up by the canal. The consequence was that in the more flourishing parts of the circle the enhancements were often somewhat heavy, but the tract is well able to pay a full assessment. Rupees 213 of the new revenue in the Dhaia is deferred assessment on account of well leases.

76. The Ghar-Bet and Ghar circles may be dismissed with few remarks.

The Ghar-Bet and Ghar The Ghar-Bet circle is a small tract containing a great variety of soil. The villages lie mostly in parallels running down from the hills to the Bet, along the narrow strip of country between the low hills and the Sutlej in the extreme north of the tahsíl. The Ghar lands are generally poor, while the Bet lands are liable to losses from diluvion from hill-streams, and holdings are almost as small as in the regular Bet. The country cannot be assessed by any exact system of rates as every village differs widely

from its neighbour, and though I had proposed separate rates at Re. 1-12-0 an acre for the Bet lands and Re. 1-1-0 for the Ghar cultivation I was not able to keep at all closely to the revenue rate estimate when it came to distribution. The enhancement proposed was Rs. 1,226, and in reviewing the report the Financial Commissioner observed that he would be content with a result slightly lower than that contemplated. The increase actually taken was Rs. 1,152 at about 14 per cent.

In the Ghar circle as in Kharar there had been a large increase of cultivation at 28 per cent. The two circles are very similarly situated and are assessed at the same rate of Re. 1-1-0 for unirrigated land. The revenue rate estimate here allowed for an increase of Rs. 2,639 as against which I actually took Rs. 2,592 or 24 per cent.

77. Many of the villages in both Ghar and Ghar-Bet circles are rather Disputes between villages and jágírdárs regarding the hill waste. hardly situated inasmuch as the whole or the greater part of the hill area included in their boundaries was recorded at last settlement as either sole property of the jágírdárs or joint between jágírdárs and proprietors. In the former case the jágírdárs have usually sold the whole of the trees on the hills and pretty well ruined their property. In the latter there have been constant disputes between the zamíndárs and jágírdárs, especially with the Sardár of Purkhali, as to what dues should be levied from the zamíndárs in the case of lands newly cultivated within the area demarcated as waste at last settlement. In some of these cases the question has settled itself by the two parties coming to terms and dividing up the hill waste so that there should be no further conflict of jurisdiction. Where this had not been already done I endeavoured to get the parties to come to some reasonable compromise so as to avoid useless disputes, but where neither side would give in I was compelled to reproduce the old entries in the record as they stood. A Settlement Officer has no power to amend the entries otherwise than with the consent of parties or in accordance with ascertained facts, and the case was further complicated by decisions given at different times by the Courts in accordance with what was supposed to have been the intention of the previous entries. The matter had to be left in a rather unsatisfactory state, and all that can be said is that this was not for want of effort to establish a fair compromise. The village notes in each case show how the matter stands in particular villages, and they may be referred to in case the disputes should ever again come to a head.

78. The following table summarizes the results of the new assessment Summary of results in tabshíl Rúpar. in tabshíl Rúpar. The figures given for the revenue before revision do not always agree exactly with the corresponding figures in the Assessment Report as some final corrections had to be made on account of alluvion and máfi assessments :—

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		ASSESSMENT REPORT ESTIMATES.		REVENUE ACTUALLY IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Half assets estimate.	Revenue rate estimate.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
Bet	Rs. 54,230	Rs. a. p. 1 14 6	Rs. 68,660	Rs. 59,409	Rs. 59,452	Rs. a. p. 2 1 5	Rs. 5,222	10
Dhaia	1,21,050	1 12 0	1,75,773	1,42,671	1,43,288	2 1 1	22,238	18
Ghar-Bet	8,399	1 5 5	11,632	9,573	9,551	1 8 4	1,152	14
Ghar	10,813	0 13 9	15,638	13,452	13,405	1 1 1	2,592	24
Total tabshíl Rúpar ...	1,94,492	1 10 9	2,71,703	2,25,105	2,25,696	1 15 0	31,204	16

The amounts shown as new revenue in this table include the items of Rs. 45 and Rs. 213 still to come in as protective leases for wells expire in the Bet and Dhaia circles respectively.

79. The Naráingarh tabshíl comprises in all 326 estates covering 435 square miles of which 214 are cultivated. These total figures include the tabshíl proper with 312 villages, and the Morni hill tract which is technically part of the tabshíl, and administered as such.

The Morni iláka however lies wholly within the hills and has little real connection with the tahsíl as it is held entirely in jágír and managed by the jágírdár or his agent. It includes 93 square miles of hilly country, of which 11 only are cultivated and the tract is divided into 14 circles or Bhojes, comprising 172 separate hamlets. Each of these hamlets is a distinct revenue unit, though many of them are small uninhabited villages covering a few scattered, outlying fields, and it has been the custom to treat the Bhojes alone as recognised estates. Excluding this Morni tract the tahsíl is compactly shaped and includes only one small block of isolated Kalsia villages. The southern two-thirds is fairly level, and has generally a close resemblance to the adjoining Amballa tahsíl. The remaining third is all more or less up and down, as in the wilder parts of Rúpar, Kharar and Jagádhri, and for distinction may be called hilly, though there is little real hill area. Throughout this curious tract the land lies in great waves or ridges, running at right angles to the Sawálik range. The soil is light and stony, offering no resistance to the rapid drainage, and the whole tract is in consequence intersected with sandy torrents and deep ravines. This perpetual ravine cutting is a prominent feature in many parts of the Amballa District, and in Naráingarh especially constitutes a serious difficulty to the villages.

For convenience the tahsíl may be described as two-thirds plains and one-third hilly, without taking the Morni tract into account, but even in the plains the surface of the land is much less uniformly level than in Amballa or Kharar. The villages with broken ground adjoining the hills have been thrown into a Ghar circle as in Rúpar and Kharar, here containing 81 estates. A small separate circle, called Darrar, containing 28 estates, was formed in the centre of the tahsíl, where the peculiar ravine formation already referred to is most prominent, and the rest of the tahsíl is made up of a large Seoti circle with 163 villages and a small Dákar circle in three detached blocks covering 40 villages. The distinction between Seoti and Dákar in this tahsíl is correct enough as far as it goes, though there is not much difference in the assessment of the two circles. The Morni iláka was divided into two circles, Ghar and Pahár, following a well recognised local distinction. The Ghar circle there included the 4 Bhojes of Rájpura, Kudána, Paunta, Palásra and 4 villages of Mator, in all 63 hamlets lying in the low country adjoining the Ghar circle of the plains, while the Pahár circle of 109 hamlets comprised, as its name implies, all the higher mountain ranges of the tract.

80. The Naráingarh Assessment Report covers the tahsíl exclusive of Morni, and the circumstances under which the latter tract was not assessed till 1891 require some explanation. The iláka was assessed by Mr. Melvill in a rough and ready way in 1853-54, the previous revenue being then reduced by about one-third. No complete settlement record was prepared. The areas of cultivated land were roughly measured or estimated under a system described at length in pages 36 to 51 of Mr. Melvill's report, but little, if any, use was made of such papers as were prepared by way of record, and the total assessment having been calculated by Bhojes, the internal distribution was left to the people to arrange among themselves in accordance with traditional shares called "kára." Village papers were made out not by areas but by a local seed calculation known as *bij* and *tol*, the *bij* representing nominally the rate of seed supposed to be sown in different soils, and the *tol* the corresponding area or gross weight of seed sown. There were only two patwáris in the tract, and as there were no maps or field registers there could be no crop inspections. The annual papers prepared up to 1887 in Hindi gave these rough *bij* and *tol* details only, and though the system may have been a convenient one in the first instance as adapted to local requirements, it is sufficient to say that the existing record was found to be almost unintelligible and absolutely worthless for any purposes of re-assessment. Mr. Melvill's total assessment was light, and the revenue distribution by Bhojes was fair enough, but the internal distribution by hamlets was not equally satisfactory, and the further distribution by holdings on the *kára* system about as bad as it could be. The revenue had been paid without actual difficulty because the assessment was light, but the inequalities of assessment were so great as to cause loud complaints.

The question how to deal with a tract of this kind with practically no establishment, no records and no trustworthy previous statistics to go on was not an easy one to answer, especially as it was foreseen that the revenue ought to be considerably enhanced. In the earlier instructions given to me in 1884 the Settlement Commissioner said that he would be prepared to depart from the general rule of the settlement and allow the tract to be mapped by amíns, but he did not wish any steps taken until an effort had been made to bring the existing papers into some sort of order. The proposal to map the cultivation by amíns was subsequently given up, and it was decided that it would be better to let the business stand over and be done properly by patwáris from the plains as soon as they could be spared for the work, with such help in the way of fixed points as could be given by a party from the Imperial Survey Department, which was surveying these hills topographically in 1887. In the meanwhile I had represented in a letter No. 52, dated 20th May 1886, that nothing further could be done till 1887, when some of the Naráingarh patwáris might be expected to be available. This proposal was sanctioned by the Financial Commissioner (No. 146C, dated 17th July 1886).

81. As it turned out the new settlement record in Naráingarh was not sufficiently advanced for me to spare the patwáris and Assessment of Morni. káníngos till the cold weather of 1887-88, by which time I had also on my hands the assessment, distribution, and *báchh* work of 1,100 villages simultaneously in talhsils Amballa, Kharar and Rúpar. The measurement work in Morni was however got through quickly, and by the Rabi harvest of 1888 we were for the first time able to make a proper crop inspection. Seeing that a large increase of revenue and extensive redistribution were involved it was considered advisable to await the result of at least two years crop inspections before attempting an assessment, and in the meanwhile a proposal to create a reserved forest in Morni had been started in 1888, which would if carried out have largely affected the assessment proposals which I then contemplated. The forest scheme was reported on unfavourably in October 1888, but a long discussion ensued, and it was not till July 1890 that the final decision negativing the scheme was arrived at. There was some further delay, for which I (being then employed elsewhere) was solely responsible, and the Assessment Report was not actually submitted till January 1891. The orders of Government were issued in June 1891 and the assessments were announced and records finally completed in October and November of that year, the new revenue being introduced from the Kharif of 1891. In para. 3 of his review of the assessment report the Financial Commissioner has recognised that it was essential to dispose of the question of forest reservation before the new assessment of the iláka could be properly determined, but it may be useful to put on record this brief narrative of events explaining how the Morni assessment came to be taken up so late in the day. In its later stages the business had to be wound up by me in such odd times as could be spared from other duties.

82. Leaving the Morni assessment to be dealt with by itself, the assessment rates and areas to which applied. rates per acre proposed by me for the rest of the tahsíl were as follows:—

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	IRRIGATED.		UNIRRIGATED.	
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Seoti	3 0 0		1 8 0	
Ghar	2 4 0		1 0 0	
Darrar ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...		...		0 14 0
Dákar	2 8 0		1 6 0	

and the areas to which they were applied were as follows :—

CIRCLE.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Seoti	1,462	75,826	77,288
Ghar	648	25,874	26,522
Darrár	60	11,493	11,553
Dákar	319	14,644	14,963
Total Tahsíl, excluding Morni Iláka	2,489	127,837	130,326

The irrigated area, though hardly 2 per cent. of the whole, included irrigation from all sources, whether masonry or *kacha* wells or streams. The separate areas under each class were so small that it was unnecessary to distinguish them. In the whole tahsíl, there are only 60 masonry wells used for irrigation at all, and most of these are only used for small areas of garden land. This may perhaps be partly due to a real difficulty in making wells, owing to a shifting sub-soil and deficient water supply as in Amballa, but the principal reason is want of capital and enterprise, coupled with the fact that in two years out of three irrigation is hardly needed for ordinary crops. The rich *cháhi* irrigation of Sadhaura and the small patches of garden cultivation all over the tahsíl, show what can be done when the land is in the hands of industrious cultivators, but these methods of cultivation are looked down on by ordinary landholders, who moreover cannot usually command the supply of manure which is necessary to make irrigation profitable. Such as it is, some two-fifths of the irrigation is by wells, mostly *kacha*, and three-fifths by ducts from the hill-streams. The areas in each case were calculated on an average from the actual irrigation for three years. The *cháhi* irrigation is pretty constant, but the *ábi* areas fluctuate within the widest limits according to the seasons. In other tahsíls the land under mango orchards was assessed separately, but in Naráingarh it was more convenient to include this area also (2,035 acres) under the head of ordinary irrigated or unirrigated land as the case might be.

In discussing these rates it was represented that the work of assessment had been found difficult even with the help of experience gained in other tahsíls. On the one hand the tahsíl is obviously unprosperous as a whole. The villages are weak and the people poor. They have little stamina and no outside resources, and the poverty appears to be steadily increasing. The standing explanations of extravagance on weddings, wasted money in the law courts, rapacity of money-lenders, and the like, are no doubt true enough, but they did not appear to be sufficient. On the other hand, the revenue was not specially high, and it was hard to say what would be the effect of taking a large enhancement now. It might break down the tahsíl hopelessly. On the other hand, it was possible that it might even do good, by lessening the people's credit and driving them to exert themselves. Or again it might increase an already strongly marked preference for criminal enterprise over the routine of farm work.

The proposed rates worked up to an estimated enhancement of 13 per cent. They were accepted by the Financial Commissioner. But the Government, following the conclusion already arrived at in the very similar case of Jagádhri, directed me to take a rather larger increase than I had contemplated in two circles. In the Seoti circle I had estimated for an increase of 12 per cent. at an all round rate on cultivation of Rs. 1-8-6. The orders raised this rate to Rs. 1-9-6 or at least near enough thereto to give an increase of not less than 15 per cent. on the previous revenue. In the Dákar circle a corresponding change was made. I had proposed leaving the revenue there pretty much as it

stood with an all round rate of Rs. 1-6-5, giving a nominal enhancement of only 1 per cent. The orders of Government were that I should raise the rate to Rs. 1-8-4 which involved an enhancement at about 10 per cent. These orders were carried out fully in both Seoti and Dákar circles. The total result of the reassessment in these four plains circles became accordingly an enhancement of Rs. 27,373 at 17½ per cent., instead of Rs. 20,459 at 13 per cent. as originally proposed in the report.

83. The Náráingarh Seoti covers three-fifths of the cultivated area of the Seoti circle. The tahsíl and pays two-thirds of the revenue. By the figures there had been a small falling off in cultivation, but this was more than neutralised by revenue reductions for diluvion. The tract is not prosperous. A fifth of the land has already passed out of the hands of the owners by sale or mortgage, and there is a huge debt not yet secured on the land, but which will inevitably lead gradually to a wholesale transfer to the money-lending class. Moreover a very large percentage of the mortgages is to professional money-lenders, as opposed to agriculturists. In Rúpar and Kharar nearly half the land mortgaged remained in the hands of the agriculturists, and even in Amballa a third, but in Náráingarh less than a fifth, showing that the people are more than ordinarily wanting in capital. At the same time the want of prosperity can only be attributed to the unthrifty habits of the great mass of the land-owners. Good cultivators hold a bare third of the circle, and there are only two strong groups of villages. Together these hold about a tenth of the land. In them the revenue already fell at over two rupees an acre, bringing up the assessment to the level of the richest parts of the Rúpar and Kharar tahsils, and with this revenue they were prosperous. It is true that the land in these two groups is above the average, but the difference in quality alone is not sufficient to account for the contrast, as is clearly proved by the fact that even in the more or less broken villages there are small communities of occupancy tenants of industrious castes, who have managed to hold their own in spite of great disadvantages.

The former revenue of the circle, as finally corrected, stood at Rs. 1,05,375, as against which I had proposed to take Rs. 1,18,125. Under the orders of Government already referred to the revenue actually imposed was Rs. 1,23,115, falling at the prescribed rate of Rs. 1-9-6 on cultivation. The increase taken was therefore Rs. 17,740 or nearly 17 per cent. Both the rate of enhancement and the resulting rate per acre are decidedly higher than in the most nearly corresponding Seoti circle of the Amballa tahsíl, and in adjoining villages I had to make rather more distinction than I should have done had the original proposals remained unchanged. Still it was possible to avoid any great inequality of treatment, and the assessments were received with stolid apathy if not with so much evident gratification as in other tahsils.

84. The main characteristics of both Ghar and Darrar circles are a large increase of cultivation, amounting to 31 per cent. in the circles. The Ghar and Darrar former case and 38 in the latter, mostly of a very inferior character, a rough, shingly or sandy soil much over-grown with thorn bushes and cut up by ravines, and a poor population mostly Gujars. An unusually large proportion of land (18 per cent. in the one case and 13 in the other) has been sold since last settlement. Most of these sales represent entire villages made over by the zamíndárs to the Mír of Kotáha at a nominal price in the famine year 1860-61. Mr. Melvill noticed in para. 248 of his Settlement Report that the Mír was very anxious at last settlement to have himself registered as sole proprietor of all his jágír villages in the plains. His claim was not tenable to the full extent, but the proprietary right was awarded to him in three villages, and small biswadári dues in the remaining 15. In the pressure of hard times the Gujars shortly afterwards sold to him their entire rights in eight of these villages and large shares in four more. The transactions attracted some attention at the time, both on account of their extent and the small amounts paid by the Mír, but as they were found to be voluntary no objections were eventually taken by the Deputy Commissioner. There is no doubt that the villagers made a very bad bargain, but on the whole they have not much to complain of. The villages are situated in an extremely poor tract, and the Mír

has given the sellers right of occupancy in the lands then cultivated on payment of low grain rents. He has proved a good landlord to them, and they are probably better off than in their former position as proprietors, though the village revenues were exceedingly light.

The results of the assessment in these circles corresponded closely with the estimates. In the Ghar I had proposed a revenue of Rs. 27,332 and actually took Rs. 27,379. In the Darrar the corresponding figures were Rs. 10,109 and Rs. 10,815 respectively. The increase in the Ghar was Rs. 5,492 at 25 per cent. and in the Darrar Rs. 2,133 at 26 per cent.

85. In the Dákar circle cultivation and population have practically remained stationary since last settlement, and the latter, falling at 510 per square mile cultivated is somewhat

The Dákar circle. sparse as things go in the district. The circle is not a well-defined subdivision and its 40 villages were most unequally assessed at last settlement. They include all the worst of the clay villages, with a few others which might more properly have been classed as Seoti. The villages were all assessed by Mr. Wynyard, and many of them heavily over-assessed till Mr. Melvill's revision of 1853-54. Rájpúts held about 40 per cent. of the land and Málís 9. The Málís manage to get on well enough, but Rájpúts break down hopelessly before the special difficulties of a stiff clay soil, and many of the villages are so completely in the Bania's hands that it is difficult to know what to do with them. The old assessment was high compared with the similar tracts elsewhere in the district, and in some cases there was undoubtedly over-assessment, even after Mr. Melvill's revision, but except in the very worst it was doubtful whether reduction of revenue would now do any real good.

One-fourth of the land has been transferred on sale or mortgage since last settlement, and it is no exaggeration to say that the circle is hopelessly involved in debt. The proposals for assessment, made by me with some hesitation as to what should be done here, would have left the total revenue as it stood, allowing for a fairer distribution only without adding to the total burden, but Government decided in favour of a moderate enhancement, calculated to involve an increase of Rs. 2,038. As against this I actually took Rs. 2,008 or nearly 10 per cent. on the old demand. In any year in which it is likely that revenue should be suspended in the Naráingarh tahsíl the villages to be considered first are those in the Dákar circle or its immediate neighbourhood. These are the first to suffer from failure of rain either in the Kharíf or Rabi, and they may be taken as a good general guide of the maximum limit up to which relief is required.

86. The Morni hill Iláka consists of 93 square miles including 25 square miles of low, broken, hilly ground more or less closely

The Morni Iláka. resembling the adjoining Ghar circle of Naráingarh.

These lower hills are of friable sandstone almost bare of vegetation, and the few villages dotted about the tract are very similar in their general characteristics to the villages of the wilder parts of the Ghar circle, except that they lie at a higher level and are more completely cut off from communication with the plains. The remainder of the iláka is made up of two main ridges of much higher hills ranging up to nearly 5,000 feet, including between them the valley of the Ghaggar. The whole tract is held in jágír, and the jágírdár has extensive rights in waste areas. The cultivated lands are owned almost entirely by Kanets, Brahmans and Gujars in the proportion of about 60, 24 and 16 per cent. respectively. Holdings are small, averaging 4 or 5 acres, over two-thirds of the land being cultivated by the proprietors themselves, and the rest by tenants paying as a rule little if any rent beyond the Government demand for revenue and cesses. The 8,000 people inhabiting the tract live comfortably enough after the simple fashion of a hill population, consuming their produce almost entirely at home, the only exports being a little ginger, sugar and rice. They depend entirely on their cattle and crops. There are no manufactures and even cotton cloths and blankets are imported from the plains. About 2 per cent. only of the cultivated land has been sold at an average price of Rs. 20 an acre, and about 5 per cent. mortgaged at the rate of Rs. 25. Somewhat over half the sales and mortgages are to money-lenders, but there are generally special reasons

accounting for the fact that a man had parted with his land. There is comparatively little floating debt, and considering their small requirements, the people may certainly be considered prosperous. They lead a somewhat hard life, but are on the whole better off and very much more contented, than the residents in the plains of Naráingarh.

87. A more elaborate series of revenue rates was prepared for this tract, based on a well-known local classification of soils. Land in Morni in these hills is known as *kulahu*, *obar* or *khil*, the *kulahu* being irrigated (from streams), the *obar* covering all level or terraced cultivation, and *khil* the rough jungle cultivation. *Obar* land is further subdivided into *Obar I*, which usually includes only highly manured and terraced cultivation, and *Obar II*, which includes the outlying fields from which comparatively poor crops only are obtained. The revenue rates proposed and sanctioned for these different classes of soil were as follows:—

Circle.	Irrigated.	Obar I.	Obar II.	Khil.
Ghar	Rs. a. p. 3 8 0	Rs. a. p. 1 4 0	Rs. a. p. 0 10 0	Rs. a. p. 0 6 0
Pahár	4 12 0	1 8 0	0 14 0	0 6 0

and the areas to which they were applied were as follows:—

Circle.	Irrigated.	Obar I.	Obar II.	Khil.	Total.
Ghar	80	566	1,287	508	2,441
Pahár	624	650	2,085	1,063	4,422
Total Morni	704	1,216	3,372	1,571	6,863

The rates worked up to an increase of revenue in the Ghar circle from Rs. 1,261 to Rs. 1,951 as against which I have actually taken Rs. 1,909, the rate of increase being 51 per cent. In the Pahár circle the revenue rate estimate raised the revenue on cultivated lands from Rs. 4,109 to Rs. 6,095, but the revenue actually imposed was Rs. 6,110 giving an enhancement at 48 per cent. Full reasons were given in the Assessment Report for taking enhancement at so much higher a rate in Morni than in any other part of the district. The effect of the new assessment on cultivated lands is shown by Bhojes in the following table:—

CIRCLE.	Number of hamlets.	Estate (Bhoj).	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		NEW REVENUE IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
			Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
Ghar	14	Rájpura	475	Rs. a. p. 0 9 7	680	Rs. a. p. 0 13 10	205	43
	21	Kudana	150	0 5 11	285	0 11 3	135	90
	11	Paonta	250	0 9 11	370	0 14 8	120	48
	13	Palera	300	0 7 10	420	0 11 0	120	40
	4	Mator (part) ...	86	0 6 0	154	0 10 9	68	79
	63	Total Ghar circle ...	1,261	0 8 3	3,909	0 12 8	648	51
Pahár	13	Mator (part) ...	739	1 5 2	1,046	1 14 1	307	42
	11	Dharthi	290	0 10 0	450	0 15 6	160	55
	9	Naita	275	0 14 8	420	1 6 5	145	53
	7	Tipra	225	1 5 0	445	1 12 9	120	37
	5	Darra	200	1 8 7	300	2 4 11	100	50
	10	Koti	560	1 1 5	820	1 9 6	280	46
	6	Kothi	200	0 14 3	310	1 6 0	110	55
	18	Jabiál	190	0 10 11	270	0 15 7	80	42
	5	Bálag	180	0 11 10	169	0 15 4	89	30
	25	Nagal	1,200	0 12 6	1,880	1 3 8	680	56
109		Total Pahár circle ...	4,109	0 14 10	6,110	1 5 2	2,001	48
172		Total Morni Iláka ...	5,370	0 12 5	8,019	1 2 8	2,649	49

88. In addition to the assessment on lands in Bhoj Nagal there was a rather troublesome question about the assessment on Harrar fruit assessment. Harrar trees (Myrobalans) which are there a very valuable property. The question is discussed in paras. 21 and 22 of the Assessment Report and para. 7 of the Government review. I proposed to exclude the produce of the 723 trees growing in the waste lands from assessment, leaving the jágírdár to make his own arrangements for collecting and selling to the best advantage to himself. On the other hand I proposed to leave the zamíndárs in the unrestricted enjoyment of the produce of 1,560 trees growing in their fields, subject to payment to the jágírdár of a fluctuating assessment at 2 annas a year on the actual number of fruit-bearing trees. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor decided that this arrangement was inadvisable, and that the whole 2,283 trees whether in fields or the jungle should be assessed at $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas a tree, the resulting Rs. 356 being added to the *jama*. The peasant zamíndárs were at the same time to be declared to have the exclusive right to collect and sell Harrar fruit in fields and waste to whom they liked, the previous arrangement under which the Mír had enjoyed a sort of monopoly right of purchase being abolished.

There was some opposition to these orders among the proprietors, and it was with difficulty that I carried them out at all. The villages agreed to the assessment on field trees but objected to the jungle assessment on the ground that the trees were there of less value. In the end matters were settled by a total assessment of Rs. 329 on all the trees, in place of the Rs. 356 contemplated by Government, and this sum was distributed as Rs. 241 on field trees and Rs. 88 on jungle trees. The number of field trees finally taken into account was 1,488 in the Káwa, Raji, Bhiunla, Hatiya, Chamiana and Bhinwar hamlets, all assessed at $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas a tree except 92 more valuable trees in Hatiya where 4 annas was charged by general consent. In the case of the jungle assessment the total of Rs. 88 was distributed over the same six hamlets, the only considerable items being Rs. 50 in Raji and Rs. 20 in Káwa. A full account of the whole matter was entered in the *Wájib-ul-arz*, and in the end the people were satisfied, though it is not unlikely that the dispute will turn up again. If it should, I venture to suggest that the villages might be given the option of throwing up the assessment on jungle trees, and the jágírdár be then given exclusive rights in these jungle trees as originally proposed in the Assessment Report. I still think that that would have been on the whole a better arrangement for all parties.

The net result of the Harrar fruit settlement was to add Rs. 329 to the *jama* of Bhoj Nagal. The total new *jama* of the Bhoj is therefore Rs. 2,209, giving an increase in this Bhoj of 84 per cent. on the old demand. The increase, heavy as it sounds, is justified by the exceptional circumstances of the Bhoj, and those hamlets in which the demand has been doubled or even trebled are still hardly paying their fair share of the revenue. The only part of Morni in which I should expect any real difficulty about paying the new assessment is in the rich but sickly villages of the Ghaggar valley, and the difficulty is there, as in the Kharar Neli, due to climate rather than the assessment.

89. Having arrived at and announced the total revenue by Bhojes, Revenue distribution and báchh in Morni. I gave the people an opportunity of discussing among themselves how they would distribute over the hamlets included in the Bhoj. The results were compared with my own independent estimates and we thus gradually worked down to the village assessments. There still remained the *báchh*, after the village details had been fixed and announced. This was not an easy business as nearly all the villages required the *báchh* made out by soil rates. The sanctioned revenue rates per acre correspond approximately with the following rates per bigah of the Government standard :—

					<i>Ghar.</i>	<i>Pahár.</i>
Irrigated	...	...	...	...	12 annas	1 rupee.
Obar I	...	...	...	...	4 "	5 annas.
Obar II	...	...	...	...	2 "	3 "
Khil	...	...	...	...	1 anna	1 anna.

The people readily understood these rates and recognised them as fairly representing the difference in quality of the soil of different classes. The arrangement made in most cases was to take these rates as the standard, raise or lower them proportionately for each hamlet, as its revenue was above or below the revenue rate estimate, and apply the resulting rates to the areas of each class as ascertained at measurements, the revenue per holding being fixed accordingly. I did what I could to insure the correctness of the calculations, and as the final *parchás* given to the land-holders with details of holdings and new revenue were written in Hindi (the only character known in the tract), the people may in a short time get to understand the arrangements as well as villages do in the plains. It has, however, to be remembered that everything is new to them—the area standard, the record, the revenue, the cesses and the method of distribution; while the old *kara* method of distribution was so arbitrary that considerable discrepancies between the old and new payments per holding were inevitable quite apart from the fact that the total revenue has been raised by one-half. The process of change is somewhat hazardous, and it would be sanguine to expect that the settlement arrangements could not be improved on. The new assessment has now been working for a year. There were not unnaturally some complaints after the first collections. The Deputy Commissioner informs me that he investigated the matter on the spot and found it unnecessary to make any alterations, all that the people required being that the details of their new revenue payments should be explained to them more thoroughly. This is satisfactory enough so far, but there need be no hesitation about re-opening the *báchh* in Morni if weak points are disclosed hereafter. Every step taken was more or less a step in the dark, and in everything except the name the Morni settlement has been a first regular settlement. The difficulty was escaped in 1853 by taking a revenue far below the ordinary standard, but this could not be done a second time in justice to the *jágírdár*. Out of the total increased revenue of Rs. 2,973 in Morni the whole except Rs. 241 goes to the *Mír* of Kotáha.

90. In the report on the proposed Morni forest reservation scheme made jointly by Mr. Down, Forest Officer, and myself in *khil* cultivation. October 1888, we noticed the fact that Morni is fairly protected from denudation as it is, and then went on as follows :—

"The case is different as regards clearance of the jungle for new cultivation. In the higher ranges fresh lands, locally known as *khil*, are brought into cultivation by the destructive process of jooming. The jungle is burnt recklessly, leaving a great scar up the hillside. The ashes mingle with the soil, and a few poor crops are harvested, after which the land is either abandoned altogether for years, or laboriously worked up into terraced fields, which may eventually yield a fair crop under regular cultivation. The actual area so broken up in the past is not large. As nearly as we can estimate there are not more than 500 to 700 acres of true *khil* land freshly cleared and burnt since the last settlement 35 years ago. It is, however, urgently necessary that the practice should be stopped absolutely in future. Unless stopped fresh water-courses will gradually form along hillsides now well covered with dense scrub, and it is even more important to remove the risk of forest fires which is unavoidable with the present system. The fact that the people have been hitherto allowed to clear lands in this way from jungle owned by the *Mír* may give them rights in the lands already cleared, but we do not understand that any such rights can be asserted for the future by way of prescription."

In the Assessment Report, para. 19, I explained my intention of assessing existing *khil* cultivation as it stood, that being the only fair arrangement as the people had been allowed to carry on the process hitherto. At the same time it was most necessary that the practice should be stopped absolutely in future. The gain to the people by the *khil* cultivation is small and out of all proportion to the harm done to the country. It was accordingly proposed that in the case of all fresh *khil* brought into cultivation after the announcement of the new assessment the *jágírdár* should be authorised to demand additional fluctuating revenue at the rate of one rupee per bigah (Rs. 4-12-0 an acre). It was hoped that the adoption of a prohibitive rate by way of severe penalty would go far to effectually stop a process from which the hillsides had already suffered much. The proposal was agreed to by Government in the following terms :—

"Sir James Lyall agrees to the proposed punitive rate of revenue on all new *khil* cultivation to be paid to the *Mír* in excess of the *jamas* as now fixed. This arrangement

will be a condition of the new assessment. All old established *khil* will come into the *báchh*. It should also be recorded that with reference to the Mír's manorial forest rights no new *khil* must be made in land containing trees without his permission."

The orders were thoroughly explained to the leading men of the tract and provision made accordingly in the *wájib-ul-arz*. It would be well if future Deputy Commissioners would bear the matter in mind, and see that the clause is not allowed to become a dead letter. At the same time it should be worked with discretion. New *khil* broken up between the time of measurements in 1888 and the assessment of 1891 should not be penalised. And normal extension of cultivation by addition to already cultivated lands does not come within the acceptance of *khil* as generally understood. What has to be stopped is the reckless firing of a hillside for the sake of a small area of almost worthless crops, but it is not intended that the *jágírdár* or his agent should use the power given them as a means of oppression.

91. There is one other small point to be noticed in connection with the *Lambardári inám* in Morni assessment. At last settlement an arrangement was made for retaining a headman known as *kárkun* for the Bhoj, as well as *lambardárs* known as *mukaddams* for the separate hamlets. The *kárkun* was paid by the normal cess at 5 per cent., and he was the real counterpart of a *lambardár* in plains villages, while the *mukaddam* was paid by a separate cess at 2 per cent. In the Assessment Report it was proposed to abolish the *mukaddams* as under present arrangements there would be no authority for their payment by an additional cess. The Government was unable to agree to this and decided that *mukaddams* should be retained as well as *kárkuns*. It was added that the 2 per cent. to be paid to them should (if the Mír agreed) be taken out of the *jamas* as *mukaddami inám*. If the Mír did not agree to this course the *jamas* were to be reduced by 2 per cent. and the *mukaddami* remuneration imposed as a cess. The Mír, through his agent, accepted the former alternative, which was a satisfactory settlement of the matter.

92. The following table sums up the results of the new assessment *Summary of results of assessment in tahsil* for the whole tahsil Naráingarh. In the case of Morni the item shown as new revenue includes Rs. 329 on account of Harrar trees as explained in para. 88. The figures for revenue before revision are as finally corrected and not as in the assessment report. No half asset estimate was made for Morni, but the new revenue has been entered in the half assets column to complete the tahsil total.

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		ASSESSMENT REPORT ESTIMATES.		REVENUE ACTUALLY IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Half assets estimate.	Revenue rate estimate.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
Seoti	Rs. 1,05,375	Rs. a. p. 1 5 10	Rs. 1,35,061	Rs. 1,18,125	Rs. 1,23,115	Rs. a. p. 1 9 6	Rs. 17,740	17
Ghar	21,887	0 13 3	30,608	27,332	27,379	1 0 6	5,492	25
Darrar	8,182	0 11 4	11,430	10,109	10,315	0 14 3	2,133	26
Dákav	20,718	1 6 2	23,889	20,933	22,726	1 8 4	2,008	9½
Morni	5,370	0 12 5	(8,348)	8,046	8,348	1 3 6	2,978	56
Total Tahsil Naráingarh	1,61,532	1 2 10	2,09,336	1,84,545	1,91,883	1 6 4	30,351	19

The amounts shown as revenue rate estimate in the above table are as originally estimated for in the Assessment Report. The changes ordered by

Government increase the revenue rate estimate for the Seoti circle to Rs. 1,23,177, for the Dákár circle to Rs. 22,756, and for the tahsíl total in that column to Rs. 1,91,420, or including Rs. 356 on account of Harrar fruit to Rs. 1,91,776.

93. To complete the account of the reassessment proceedings I give a table showing the ultimate results of the revision as it has affected or will affect Government and the assignees. I have added the corresponding figures for Jagádhri and Pípli (as it now stands) so as to complete the table for the whole existing Amballa district. The figures for new revenue are inclusive in all cases of items of revenue still to come in on account of deferred or progressive assessments. In North Amballa these items are trifling. In Jagádhri they amount to Rs. 1,656 and in Pípli to Rs. 4,122. As far as Government is concerned the important figures in the table are contained in columns 8 and 11. In round numbers the settlement operations for the whole district, costing some 7½ lakhs, have brought in an increased revenue of 1½ lakhs, of which Government gets a little over a lakh. Including its share taken in the form of commutation tax on the enhanced jágir revenue the total Government gain has been Rs. 1,11,000.

TAHSIL.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.			ULTIMATE REVENUE BY REASSESSMENT.			INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.			Total Government gain by revision including the increase to jágir commutation.
	Khálsa.	Assign-ed.	Total.	Khálsa.	Assign-ed.	Total.	Khálsa.	Assign-ed.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Amballa ...	1,27,262	86,804	2,14,066	1,40,800	93,629	2,34,429	13,538	6,825	20,363	14,349
Kharar ...	1,12,741	1,09,258	2,21,999	1,30,796	1,26,896	2,57,692	18,056	17,638	35,693	20,349
Rúpar ...	1,19,456	75,036	1,94,492	1,42,041	83,655	2,25,696	22,585	8,619	31,204	24,350
Naráingarh ...	86,970	74,562	1,61,532	1,01,965	89,918	1,91,883	14,992	15,356	30,851	17,016
Total North Amballa.	4,46,429	3,45,660	7,92,089	5,15,602	3,94,098	9,09,700	69,172	48,438	1,17,611	76,064
Jagádhri ...	1,00,733	1,04,653	2,05,386	1,22,516	1,18,377	2,40,893	21,783	13,724	35,507	23,236
Pípli ...	1,44,936	82,091	2,27,027	1,56,531	86,129	2,42,660	11,595	4,038	15,633	12,002
Total South Amballa.	2,45,669	1,86,744	4,32,413	2,70,047	2,04,506	4,83,553	33,378	17,762	51,140	35,328
Total Amballa District.	6,92,098	5,32,404	12,24,502	7,94,649	5,98,604	13,93,253	102,551	66,200	1,68,751	1,11,392

94. In carrying out the báchh of the northern tahsíls the villages were given the option of distributing by an all-round rate or by a more elaborate báchh based on soil areas. The great majority of villages in the plains expressed a strong preference for an all round rate, and where there was no special reason to the contrary their wishes were carried out. In some cases, however, I interfered where an all round rate was obviously unfair, and this was especially the case in villages lying along the course of hill streams, where a large area along the banks is often much damaged by sand. The soil classification at measurements followed the instructions issued by Colonel Wace at the beginning of the settlement, and the only distinctions

recognised in the record were *cháhi*, *ábi*, *sailáb* and *báráni*. Except in the Rúpar Bet there is little real *sailáb* land, and the classification as given in the records was not much guide either to assessment or the *báchh*. In the assessment the method of classification adopted is described in each case in the report on the tahsíl. In the *báchh* lands were reclassified by blocks where soil rates were required, and the necessary details are given both in the settlement record and *báchh* files. In the case of wells the most usual course was to put a lump assessment on each well, determined with the consent of the village on a calculation of the merits of the well according to its capacity for irrigation as shown by the actual facts of irrigation for three or four years; to distribute this lump sum over the proprietors or occupiers of the well according to their shares in the well; to add the resulting well assessment to the amount *báchhed* on the land of a holding according to the ordinary village rate for land of the same class; and to take the whole as the sum assessed on the holding. This was the simplest and on the whole the most satisfactory course. No invariable rule was, however, followed, and where the proprietors wished it the irrigated area was either disregarded or separately demarcated and charged at a special rate.

In many villages of Amballa the old revenue was divided by patti's in separate fixed sums. After the new assessments were announced it was often a question whether patti's should continue to be separately assessed or not. As far as possible these matters were settled by arbitration, but where the dispute could not be otherwise disposed of I passed a separate order in each case saying what was to be the new assessment on the patti's, and then proceeded to *bachh* the patti revenues by separate rates as if each patti had been a distinct village.

In the case of lands owned by a *jágírdár* (*sír jágír*) if the lands were not distinguishable from other village lands they were assessed at the usual rate for the village, the resulting assessment being of course nominal except for the purpose of calculating cesses and commutation tax. Where however the *sír* land lay in a separate block and included a large area of valuable jungle or grazing waste (*Bír*) I put a fixed lump assessment on the *Bír*, deducting that sum from the village revenue before proceeding with the *báchh*. This was in many cases a necessary arrangement in order to avoid disputes, and the *jágírdárs* and villagers in every case accepted my lump assessment without demur. Details of this kind are always explained in the English village notes, which may be referred to should disputes arise hereafter.

95. I have explained that in most cases of villages containing a large area of land much damaged by sand from the action of hill streams, the land so affected has been given a specially light rate in the *bachh*. The matter is of some importance as in many of these cases when the sand increases the land may go altogether out of cultivation and the village will then clamour for reduction of assessment under the diluvion rules. It will at the most be entitled to remission of the assessment actually imposed on their fields in the new *báchh*, and not to remission at the prevailing rate for the village. Unless care is taken the subordinate Revenue officials may easily go wrong in the matter, and represent the village as entitled to a larger remission than it ought to get. The facts of the village were always brought up to the latest possible date immediately before giving out the assessment. All land altogether destroyed on that date was excluded from assessment, even if it had been classed as cultivated at the time of field survey; and when badly damaged but not actually destroyed the amount of damage done was taken into account in the new assessment. A village can therefore under no circumstances be entitled to reduction of revenue hereafter under the diluvion rules, unless for injury done after the date of introduction of the new assessments, namely Kharíf 1837 in the case of Amballa, Kharar and Rúpar, and Kharíf 1888 in the case of Naráingarh. I mention this prominently as the general clearing up of village accounts at the settlement will carry on matters for many years, and by the time that measures for reduction of assessment on account of diluvion and action of sand begin to be required the arrangements made in the settlement will have ceased to be fresh in the minds of the patwáris and kánungos. Ordinarily changes in the course of streams

are very slow, and may be disregarded until some substantial harm has been done. Occasionally, however, it happens that a stream will cut an entirely new course, devastating some villages and converting the soil of others within a year or two from the poorest of clay to rich loam. This actually occurred during the settlement operations in the case of both the Márkanda and Umla in the Amballa tahsíl. In two villages (Mulána Patti Bagheru and Durana) the revenue had to be reduced in this way in the course of settlement from Rs. 3,825 to Rs. 2,650. It may be borne in mind that in such cases while Government is bound to remit revenue on the land destroyed, it is equally entitled under the land revenue rules to reopen the assessment of the more fortunate villages which have benefited by a stroke of luck which could not be foreseen by the Settlement Officer when assessing the village. The matter is one in which some discretion is required on the part of Revenue officers. It is not worth while to frequently tinker a village revenue for the sake of a few rupees, but at the same time there is no reason why Government should forego a fair assessment, when the action of streams completely alters the condition of the villages.

96. At last settlement village revenues were usually made payable in Share of revenue paid in different harvests. equal instalments at the two harvests or in the proportion of 10 annas in the kharíf to 6 in the rabi. The latter was an inconvenient arrangement, involving difficulty in calculating numerous petty items, and it has been given up. Villages were, however, given the option of dividing their revenue between the harvests in any way they pleased provided that even fractions were taken. In the different tahsíls 26 villages of Kharar, 184 of Rúpar, 16 of Naráingarh and 1 of Jagádhri elected for two-thirds in the kharíf and one-third in the rabi; 6 of Pípli and one each of Jagádhri and Amballa took one-third in the kharíf and two-thirds in the rabi; 2 of Rúpar took three-fourths in the kharíf and one-fourth in the rabi, and one small Pípli village decided to pay its whole revenue in the rabi. These variations covered 238 villages in all. The remaining 1,982 villages pay half and half. It is a question whether they are well advised in doing so, the kharíf harvest being decidedly the more productive of the two in the north of the district at any rate, and the rabi in some parts of the centre and south. If villages should at any time express a decided wish for a change, I think they should be allowed to make it. The change will involve little complication of accounts, provided that the calculation is made by simple fractions and not by annas in the rupee.

97. Landholders were given a copy of the *khatauni* entries for each holding at measurements without charge. At the end of Final parchás. settlement they were given a *parcha* book containing a detail of fields and areas in their holding as by the completed records, with entries showing the amount payable on the holding for revenue and cesses. Pages were left for entry of actual revenue payments in future years. These books were supplied at the bare cost price of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a book. In the Morni iláka the books were written up in the Nágri character.

98. After announcement of the new assessments any village was at liberty to petition against its assessment, no stamp duty Appeals from assessment. being chargeable on these petitions. In some few cases further enquiry showed that there were good grounds for petition, and a reduction was made before the báchh work began and before the assessments were reported for sanction. So far as is known there was only one case of successful appeal. In that case (Ratangarh of tahsíl Rúpar) the circumstances of the village were very peculiar and there was much doubt as to how it should be assessed. The Financial Commissioner allowed a reduction of Rs. 100. The English village note on the village explains the circumstances fully, and there is a separate file on the case which may be referred to if further difficulty arises.

99. The orders contained in Financial Commissioner's Circular No. 8 of 1860 regarding village malha had generally been interpreted in Amballa as authorising lambardárs to collect a fixed sum for village expenses calculated on the maximum percentage scale laid down therein. This was not apparently the intention of the Circular, and in

practice the fixed sum so levied had come to be looked on as a perquisite of the lambardár. The practice was an abuse, caused discontent and was a fertile source of dispute in the villages. In the wájib-ul-arz it has now generally been prescribed that the malba shall be *kacha*, that is no fixed sum is stated and the amount expended harvest by harvest is distributed over the village according to the actual account made out, subject to the prescribed maximum percentage. While interfering as little as possible in village details of this kind, I think that Revenue officers would do some good by seeing that this arrangement is kept up.

100. With the introduction of the new assessments the local rate cess was raised from Rs. 10-5-4 to Rs. 10-13-4 per cent. in each tahsíl, Cesses old and new. but by subsequent orders the cess was finally fixed at Rs. 10-6-8 per cent. of the land revenue throughout the Amballa district. The old patwári cess at Rs. 3½ per cent. has been raised to Rs. 4-11-0 per cent. in all tahsíls except Pípli, where it is fixed at Rs. 5-6-8 per cent. Under later land revenue rules the patwári cess is merged in a "village officer's" cess.

101. Except in the Neli circle of Tahsíl Kharar, where the new assessments ran for five years only, nothing definite was said about Term of settlement. the term of settlement in giving out the revenue of North Amballa, though in accordance with demi-official instructions from the Financial Commissioner to the Commissioner of the 4th November 1887 (printed with the Assessment Reports of Amballa, Kharar and Rúpar), the people were generally given to understand that Government did not propose to sanction any assessment for a shorter term than 20 years. It is believed that the question is not one which a Settlement Officer is expected to discuss. I need perhaps only say that it may be hoped that some sort of finality has now been reached in the process of assessing different parts of the same district, and different villages in the same part, equally one with another according to their merits. If that is correct, future revision proceedings will probably take the form of a general enhancement all round at the rate of so many annas in the rupee as the altered circumstances of the country may justify, and with continued improvement in the efficiency of the subordinate revenue establishment there is a fair prospect that a revision of that nature could be carried out at any time without expenditure of anything like the time, trouble and money required on this occasion. In this view it would seem unwise for Government to tie its hands by sanctioning a longer term of settlement than 20 years. The economic conditions of the country may alter materially in an even shorter time. If they do not, it is easy to let the settlement run on beyond its allotted term.

102. In reviewing the assessment reports Government directed me to refer specially in my final report to the subject of assessments in Native States on the border of the district. Comparison between the assessment of Amballa and of Native States on the border. The question is intimately connected with that of the term of settlement, the principal difference between our assessments and those of a Native State being that in the latter there is a strongly marked preference for short term settlements. I was unable to obtain any such general statistics as would facilitate comparison over considerable areas, which alone would afford a real test. The village details collected gave various results. There was so much uncertainty about the facts, both as regards areas included in the assessment and the items collected, that it would serve no useful purpose to give the figures. They are quite untrustworthy, and the only way of arriving at a proper conclusion would be to make a careful enquiry in the States, for which I had neither time nor opportunity. In the case of Patiála villages on our border the revenue assessment appeared to be generally much higher than our own, but there were exceptions, and in some cases it was actually lower. The difficulty is to find out how much revenue is really collected after including various items which we leave out of account, and on the other hand how much drawback is allowed in the form of *inám* or retaining fee to village heads. In normal cases the total collections of all kind as revenue and cesses, less the drawbacks, appeared (if area details were correctly stated in village papers) to be some 20 to 30 per cent. higher than our own. As against this, however, may be set the fact that the area details were loosely

stated and that the area of cultivated land may be under-estimated. In Kalsia also the revenue appeared to be much heavier than our own, but it is not known what the result of the recent revision of assessment in Kalsia has been. Speaking generally the Native State assessments seemed much higher than our own, and, though their villages contrast their lot unfavourably with ours, there is often little obvious difference in apparent prosperity. The cause of the higher revenue is well known. The Native States have not generally in the past followed our lead in the matter of long term settlements, and have enhanced their land revenue more rapidly during the era of high prices. The people have consequently been gradually accustomed to high assessments, and feel them proportionately less than our villages would if they were suddenly called on to pay corresponding amounts. Apart from this the system of administration in Native States is devised so as to secure that a larger share of the profits from the land shall go directly into the coffers of the State than it does with us, and a smaller into the pockets of the Bania, the Vakil and the petition-writer. Unless we are prepared to alter our system in the one respect we cannot expect our land revenue assessments to correspond in the other.

103. The new assessment appears to have worked well so far through-
 Working of the new out the district, and the new revenue has been collected
 assessment. without difficulty. The only harvest in which it has been
 necessary to suspend revenue on a large scale was the rabi of 1890. Rs. 44,267
 were suspended then, including Rs. 17,895 in tahsīl Amballa, Rs. 6,416 in Kharar,
 Rs. 1,131 in Rúpar, Rs. 9,292 in Naráingarh, Rs. 4,132 in Jagádhri, and
 Rs. 5,398 in Pípli. About Rs. 4,000 of suspended revenue is still outstanding.
 Of the remainder Rs. 27,497 was collected in the rabi of 1891, Rs. 8,676 in the
 kharíf of 1891 and smaller sums with the harvests of 1892.



CHAPTER V.

THE ASSESSMENT OF TAHSILS JAGADHRI AND PIPLI.

104. The last Chapter dealt mainly with matters connected with the assessment of the northern tahsils, reference being only occasionally made to tahsils Jagadhri and Pípli to give a connected account for the district where required. My instructions are to include a summary of the reassessment work of those tahsils in my report. In this Chapter I have accordingly reproduced portions of Mr. Douie's Report, omitting such parts as it seems unnecessary to repeat. For convenience I have placed these paragraphs 104 to 121 in a separate chapter, as they have been written wholly by Mr. Douie and only slightly modified by me. The entire chapter may be omitted by officers when reading the report for purposes of review, but District Officers may find it useful to have the information readily available in one report. They should however refer to Mr. Douie's full account of his operations when requiring more detailed information. The Pípli tahsil as here dealt with covers the tahsil as it stands now, and not as it was when Mr. Douie made the settlement.

105. "Before giving an account of the settlement of each tahsil, I will describe the method adopted for the assessment of well lands throughout the tract. One reason for the failure of Mr. Wynyard's settlement was his over-assessment of irrigation. It was not that he exaggerated the area commanded by the wells, but that he assessed that area as if it was all watered year by year. In Jagadhri well irrigation is of little importance, amounting only to about 3 per cent. of the cultivated area. In Pípli outside the Jamna Khádir and the flooded tracts, the system of cultivation followed on the "gora" or homestead and jangal or outlying wells is widely different. The former are those situated in the fields immediately surrounding the village. One reason for the fertility of such land is well known. But, besides, all the manure is expended on the homestead fields. The cultivation is therefore to a large extent dofasli, though the autumn crop is not always watered. Where the people are very industrious and manure is plentiful, one finds double cropping all over the area watered from the wells. If the supply of manure is limited, the dofasli area is less. As a rule the inner belt of the gora lands is usually dofasli, while the outer belt is mainly ekfasli.

"The outlying or jangal wells are cultivated on the ekfasli system. The fields attached to them are not manured, except where cane is grown. The object of the zamindár is to raise as much wheat as possible upon these wells; but experience has taught him that, even though the land is not cropped in the autumn harvest, it is impossible to put in wheat more than twice in succession without exhausting the soil. Provided the land is treated properly, the produce of the unmanured wheat on the outlying wells is supposed to be superior to that of manured wheat grown in the homestead fields. In order to restore the quality of the soil, unirrigated gram is substituted for wheat in the second or third year, or the wheat is followed immediately by cotton, urd, or chari, and the land is then left for a year, after which wheat is again sown. The cultivator always hopes to get through the hot weather without using his well, except to water cane before the rains break. If he has good luck, his maize and cotton will ripen without irrigation. The area attached to the well is often far larger than can be watered in any one year, and a considerable part of it will be found in any particular harvest under dry crops. In the parts of Pípli where the rainfall is sufficient to allow of cane being largely cultivated on the wells, the proportion of kharíf irrigation is higher than elsewhere. In illustration of the above remarks, the following figures relating to the wells of three upland circles of Pípli may be quoted:—

CIRCLE.	Average depth of wells to water.	As entered in settlement record.	AREA IRRIGATED PER WELL BUCKET.										Yearly average.
			Kharif 1883.	Rabi 1884.	Total.	Kharif 1884.	Rabi 1885.	Total.	Kharif 1885.	Rabi 1886.	Total.		
Bangar	24	20½	6½	9½	16½	1	4½	5½	2	6½	8½	10	
Northern Chachra ...	19	21	9½	13	22½	4½	4½	9½	3½	4½	7½	13	
Southern Chachra ...	25	12½	3½	8	11½	4	4	4½	4	5½	6	7½	

The first year was one of extreme drought, in which the wells were strained to the utmost; the second year was marked by an extraordinary rainfall, and irrigation may be said to have reached its lowest point; in the third year irrigation was little wanted in the autumn harvest, while in the rabi a preliminary watering had often to be given in the drier circles owing to drought at the sowing season, but afterwards the rains were very abundant and irrigation was not required. On the strength of such statistics I estimated in Pipli what I considered a fair number of acres per well bucket, and multiplied this by the number of buckets in use in order to obtain the assessable cháhi area. In the three circles shown in the above statement the assumed areas were:—

	Acres.
Ladwa Bangar	14
Northern Chachra	16
Southern Chachra	9

In Jagádhri, where well irrigation is of much less importance, the cháhi area adopted for assessment was the average area actually watered in four years. A cháhi rate was framed for each circle, which, being multiplied by the assessable area ascertained in the manner explained above, gave the irrigated demand. In fixing the revenue of each estate, the average area of irrigation, which differs greatly even in adjoining villages, was of course carefully considered. The total village demand was divided into a dry assessment and an ábiána or water-advantage revenue. The former was distributed over the whole cultivated area, irrigated and unirrigated, and the latter over the wells. Thus if a village had a cultivated area of 1,000 acres, of which 200 acres were on the average irrigated from 15 wells, and a revenue of Rs. 1,475 was imposed, the dry rate being Re. 1-2-0, Rs. 1,125 represented the assessment on the land in its unirrigated aspect, and Rs. 350 the water-advantage assessment or ábiána. The rate of the ábiána was therefore Re. 1-12-0. The ábiána was distributed over the wells according to the irrigating capacity of each. This was ascertained by extracting from the crop returns the areas irrigated from each well for three or four years, and taking the average as the irrigated area for assessment purposes. It was a somewhat tedious process, but I thought it necessary because the work done by different wells in the same village is for various reasons very unequal, and the entries in our record of the area attached to each well was not a trustworthy guide. Another reason which led me to propose the imposition of an ábiána on wells in the form of a lump sum was the fact that there is a good deal of irrigation by men who, according to the settlement papers, have no share in the wells they use. Sometimes water was admittedly taken only by permission of the owners; but in many cases the irrigators claimed a right to a regular turn of irrigation, and asserted that they had always enjoyed this. The fields of such men were recorded as well irrigated; but, if they had been assessed at wet rates and water had subsequently been refused, a grave injustice would have been done. On the other hand, when the irrigated part of the assessment took the form of a water-advantage revenue imposed in a lump sum on the well, the recorded owners of the well had to elect, when the demand was distributed over holdings, whether they would pay it all themselves, or divide it between themselves and the other irrigators.

106. "In certain circles a falling off in the number of wells in use had

Remission of ábiána during currency of settlement if a well falls permanently out of use. occurred during the currency of the expiring settlement, due probably in part to the great increase in the cost of bullocks. In the Southern Chachra of Pípli my returns showed a third less wells than those of Mr. Wynyard's

settlement; but the actual diminution was a good deal less, probably not more than 20 or 25 per cent. To get rid of the hardship of a man having to pay ábiána for his well when it had ceased to be workable, I proposed that when a well had fallen permanently out of use the ábiána should be remitted. The Financial Commissioner approved of the proposal; but, in reviewing the Indri Assessment Report, the Punjab Government expressed some apprehension that its adoption might encourage cultivators to throw existing wells out of use, and to sink new wells "in order to escape that portion of the assessment which is put on the land in its irrigated aspect." The proposal was therefore sanctioned provisionally, and I was ordered to notice the matter in my Settlement Report, as it would be necessary to satisfy Government that the system would not work to the detriment of the revenue in the manner apprehended. The fears expressed appear to me to be groundless. An ordinary well in the upland circles, with an assumed assessable area of 10 to 14 acres, pays an ábiána of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 in addition to the dry assessment on the land. The construction of a new well would cost Rs. 300 to Rs. 400, which would usually be borrowed. If the landowner takes takávi and obtains it on the easiest terms contemplated by the rules, payment beginning four years after the date of the loan and being spread over a further period of 16½ years, he will by the end of 20½ years have wiped out an advance of Rs. 300, by paying Government Rs. 586, while his total payments on account of ábiána for the 20 years' period of settlement will be from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. In the Khádir well-sinking is cheaper; but even there I do not think the temptation to throw out of work an existing well in order to make a new one will be at all of an alluring character, and the temptation, such as it is, will become weaker year by year. So far only one application for the remission of ábiána has been received by the Financial Commissioner.

107. "The Pípli tahsíl as now constituted covers 559 square miles, and

Natural divisions and assessment circles of Pípli. includes a great variety of soils and agricultural conditions. It is traversed by four hill streams and their affluents, whose

influence on the tracts through which they flow is widely different. Four strongly marked natural divisions can be recognized. Between the Jamna and the canal is a small flat river Khádir of the ordinary type. A narrow strip of Bangar, with good soil and abundant well irrigation lies between the canal and the Rakhsí. The country between the upper course of the Umla and the Márkanda is a rich alluvial tract in which almost every acre of land is under the plough, and where the crops, although raised without any artificial irrigation, are fairly secure. The rest of the tahsíl is marked by the abundant growth of dhák jangal, and the whole tract in which it abounds is called the "Chachra." The Chachra which stretches from the border of Jagádhri on the one side and beyond that of the Pehowa pargana on the other, is by no means of a homogeneous character. The country lying between the Rakshi on the east, the Sarusti and the Ládwa and Shahabad Road on the south, and the Betan and Linda Nalas on the west, is a tract of good natural capacities, with a fairly fertile soil. Water is sufficiently near the surface to make irrigation easy. Cane is grown in nearly every village, and wheat can be raised without artificial irrigation. The crops, especially the rice, which is a very important staple here, are certainly most uncertain, and the part of the tract which is flooded by hill streams is very unhealthy. It cannot be said to have prospered since last settlement, but I see no reason why it should not do so with proper revenue management. This part of the Chachra was formed into a separate assessment circle and called the Northern Chachra. The country to the south and west, with Thánesar as its centre, is cursed with an unhealthy climate, with hill streams whose floods are most capricious, and with a strong soil which requires an abundant rainfall, which it very often fails to get. Rice is the great autumn, and gram the great spring staple. Wheat can rarely be raised in unirrigated land, and very little cane is grown. This circle, which I called the Southern Chachra, was greatly over-assessed by Mr. Wynyard. No subse-

quent revisions have put it right, and it has been a by-word for steady decay for the last thirty-five years.

Five assessment circles have accordingly been formed, the Khádir, the Ládwa Bangar, the Northern and Southern Chachrás, and the Márkanda Bet.

Assessment rates. 108. "The assessment rates are shown in the following table:—

Circles.	Irrigated from masonry wells.	Irrigated from tanks and kacha wells.	Canal Sailáb.	Jamna Sailáb.	Dry and flooded by torrents except dahr.	Dahr.	Grazing.	Rate on cultivation.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Bet Márkanda ...	2 12 0	...	...	1 0 0	1 2 4	1 2 4	...	1 2 8
Khádir	2 8 0	...	1 12 0	...	1 5 4	1 5 4	...	1 7 0
Bangar	2 10 4	1 12 0	1 10 0	...	1 2 0	0 14 0	...	1 7 1
Northern Chachra ...	2 8 0	1 10 0	...	...	1 1 0	0 12 0	0 0 3	1 3 5
Southern Chachra ...	2 4 0	1 12 0	...	...	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 0 9	1 1 6

The small area kept permanently moist by the Western Jamna Canal is rich land in which a great deal of cane is grown and the rates are light. On the other hand, the Jamna sailáb is very poor. In the rabi the crops are choked with weeds; and in the kharíf they are always liable to be destroyed by floods. In the Bangar and Northern Chachra a distinction was made between the ordinary magra, which is clean loam, and the hard rice lands (dahr), the yield of which is extraordinarily precarious. The grazing rates are not so light as they appear for a good deal of bad kalar land was wrongly recorded as culturable waste.



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Assessment imposed.

actually

109. "Details of the assessment imposed are given in the following table : |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	DEFERRED REVENUE INCLUDED IN COLUMNS 7 TO 9.			
													REVENUE ACTUALLY IMPOSED.			
Circle and number of estates.	Khálsa.	Assigned.	Total with rate on cultivation.	Half assets estimate.	Revenue by rates with rates on cultivation.	Khálsa.	Assigned.	Total with cultivation.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Increase or decrease per cent.	Khálsa.	Assigned.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bet Márkanda (118) ...	28,749	55,553	84,302	1,26,056	96,579	34,396	60,724	95,120	1 2 4	381	791	1,172				
Khádir (39) ...	22,792	2,992	25,784	36,805	20,060	25,115	2,845	27,960	1 6 11	646	5	651				
Bangar (50) ...	37,682	1,641	39,323	38,942	41,497	40,224	1,346	41,570	1 7 2	210	60	270				
Northern Chachra (127)	32,166	14,235	46,401	47,154	51,440	35,443	15,667	51,110	1 3 4	1,249	287	1,536				
Southern Chachra (108)*	25,306	7,494	32,800	16,889	25,990	22,755	5,635	28,390	1 8 1	339	154	493				

*Note.—The figures given for the Southern Chachra circle are for the circle as it stood when reassessed. Eight villages have since been transferred from this circle to the Katial Tehsil of the Karnal District.

110. "Parts of the Southern Chachra were in such a depressed state when the settlement began that I was ordered to make proposals for giving a fluctuating assessment to any village which seemed to require and was willing to accept it. The rates adopted were :—

	Rs.	a.
Well-irrigated crops harvested, per acre	... ... 2	0
Other rabi crops	... ... 1	4
Other kharif crops except chari	... ... 1	0
Chari	... ... 0	12

A small fixed grazing assessment was also imposed in most estates. In the end 16 villages were put under the system. The fixed demand remained on the revenue roll, and the difference between it and the revenue by crop rates was treated as a remissible balance. There was much to be said in favour of a fluctuating assessment in the Southern Chachra circle. But the objections of the landowners were strong. They admitted that the system described above had worked to their advantage during settlement, but they refused to believe that it would be properly managed by the ordinary Tahsîl establishment. Moreover the size of the tahsîl made it unlikely that the Tahsildâr would be able to devote a proper amount of attention to the subject. I therefore gave up the idea of introducing a fluctuating assessment compulsorily, and proposed that, when announcing the fixed demand, I should be allowed to give all estates in these two circles, except those owned by money-lenders or other non-resident landlords, the option of accepting it or of coming under a mixed fixed and fluctuating system, of which the principal features were—

- (a) Grazing lands and certain gardens to be assessed at fixed sums.
- (b) The acreage irrigable from wells to be given a fixed assessment in respect of that advantage at rates varying from Re. 1-8-0 or Re. 1-4-0 per acre, according to situation.
- (c) Successful crops, whether irrigated or unirrigated, to pay a fluctuating assessment of Re. 1 per acre, but nothing to be paid for crops that failed.

I also suggested that it should be a condition of the settlement in these estates that the proprietors should be allowed, at any time during its currency, to throw up their fixed leases, on giving six months' notice to the Deputy Commissioner, and to accept instead a fluctuating assessment. The Deputy Commissioner was also to have the power, with the sanction of the Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner, to cancel the settlement of any estate when one year's revenue was in arrears, and to introduce the system described above compulsorily. The Financial Commissioner approved of these proposals, but he considered that it would be enough to allow the Deputy Commissioner "to recommend the introduction of fluctuating assessments in the usual way if an estate should fall into difficulties, whether to the extent of one year's demand or otherwise." He asked Government to allow the Financial Commissioner to sanction the introduction of such assessments upon his own authority. As I expected, all estates preferred a fixed demand. Afterwards Sir James Lyall, when passing orders on the Assessment Report, raised the rate on unirrigated crops from Re. 1 to Re. 1-4-0, and expressed an opinion that "a proposal to compulsorily introduce a system of fluctuating assessments during the currency of a settlement, when Government is not prepared to impose such a system at the time of making the settlement, is one of doubtful propriety, unless it be specially guarded." Should the Revenue authorities unfortunately have hereafter to cancel the settlement of any estate under the 73rd section of the Land Revenue Act, they will then be able to introduce any system which they think most likely to restore the landowners to prosperity.

111. "The deferred assessments in Pipli mainly on account of progressive assessments were unusually large. The distribution of the old revenue over villages had become exceedingly unequal and, though the enhancement taken in the tahsîl as a whole was small, the rise

in many villages was great. In some of the estates, on the other hand, which were so badly off that I had to give a large measure of relief, I did not think it necessary to make the whole of the reduction permanent. A good many of the progressive assessments were in villages acquired in whole or part by Málís. Where they had been settled for some time, an extraordinary increase of cultivation had already taken place; and where their settlement was very recent, speedy expansion was to be expected. I thought it wise to treat the Málís with liberality, for on the continued immigration of these industrious husbandmen the future of the two Chachra circles depends. The progressive assessments will mostly fall in in 1892 and the rest in 1897.

112. "I proposed that the assessments of 16 estates in the Bet Márkanda ^{Sixteen estates in Pípli} and Southern Chachra circles, situated at the tail of the ^{assessed for five years} Márkanda and Umla irrigation, should only be announced only. ^{for five years.} Some doubts were expressed whether this measure was really necessary; but after I had explained the great changes that were taking place in the locality, owing to alterations in the course of these two streams and the probability that existed that some villages would deteriorate and others improve with great rapidity, my proposal was accepted, though the doubts originally expressed by Sir James Lyall were not entirely removed (Punjab Government No. 19, dated 16th January 1889).

113. "Jagádhri is a much smaller and more compact tahsíl than Pípli ^{Natural divisions of Jagádhri.} Three great natural divisions can be recognized. The first, covering less than one-tenth of the whole surface, consists of the sandy uneven "Kandi" along the skirts of the hills and the broken "Ghar" tract, honey-combed with ravines, on the borders of Naráingarh. The rest of the tahsíl is about equally divided between Khádir and Bangar. The western boundary of the latter is the high bank of the Som valley from Katgarh to Buria, and to the south of that town the canal.

114. "Six assessment circles were formed. The Kandi and the worst ^{Assessment circles of Jagádhri.} part of the Ghar were united in one circle, the whole being called for convenience "Kandi." Except in the extreme east near the Jamna, the Siwáliks present to the south an abrupt front, pierced by long gorges from which sandy and boulder strewn torrents emerge into the plains. The hill area possessed by British villages is as a rule small. The Kandi estates proper have a poor, sandy and uneven soil, and boulders often lie close to the surface. The torrents do much damage. The Ghar lying to the west of the high bank of the Som valley, and traversed by the Sukhar, Sadadeni, Adáwa, and Sarusti streams, consists of sandy hills, sprinkled with boulders, torrent beds, and ravines, mixed with stretches of fairly level land. It is impossible without riding over the country to form any conception of its strange appearance. The flat lands are often productive, but they are year by year being encroached on by the ravines. Cultivation is carried on under great difficulties. The clearing of the dhák and karaunda jangals, which abounds near the hills, is a heavy task. Boulders often give much trouble to the ploughman, and in some villages water for man and beast is scarcely procurable after the torrents have run dry. Moreover, the wild animals manage to secure a large share of the crops. The population consists mostly of Gujars, who are in some of the villages hardworking and well-to-do.

115. "The Khádir was divided into three circles: the Som Khádir, the Northern Jamna Khádir, and the Southern Jamna Khádir, ^{The three Khadir circles.} The first includes the villages between the Som and Boli torrents, and 10 or 11 estates between the Boli and the canal. The soil is usually an easily worked fertile loam, mixed with dahr, which is sufficiently light to bear two crops in the year. To the east of the Boli there is a good deal of stiff dahr, but most of it is canal-watered, and yields fine rice in the autumn, and barley, gram, or masri, or mixed crops of these grains, in the spring harvest. The population is a miscellaneous one of Jats, Gujars, Kaláls, Málís, and Raiens. The part of the Jamna Khádir lying to the north of the Som and between the canal and the river is very inferior to the rest. The surface is cut up by wide river beds, and destructive floods are common. The soil is a very poor grey-coloured sandy loam, and there are often boulders close to the surface. Where

it is not sandy and stony, it is too often damp and foul with weeds. The population consists of Gujars. The Southern Jaimna Khádir is generally flat, and the soil is an easily worked productive loam. An exception must be made in the case of the lands flooded by the river, and of some lowlying estates near Buria, which are situated between the canal and a drainage channel, and are consequently liable to be water-logged. In an ordinary season all the best crops, but post and vegetables, can be grown without artificial irrigation. Rájpúts form the bulk of the agricultural population; but there is a large admixture of Gujars, Jats, and Kambohs. The river for some years back has been steadily cutting into the best part of the circle.

116. "The Bangar was divided into two circles: the Bangar and the Dahr.

The Bangar and the Dahr. The first forms the backbone of the tahsil. In the north-west it runs up into the ravines of the Ghar; in the south-east the drainage into the canal is rapid, and the surface is often sloping and broken, and the land poor and sandy. On the other hand, some of the villages in the west of the circle near the Rakshi have a stiffish soil with a large admixture of clay. But, as a rule, the soil is a rich loam, containing a large but not excessive amount of sand, easily worked and yielding a good return to the husbandman. The land is not very level, except to the south of Jagádhri, but the slopes are gentle and do not interfere much with the success of cultivation. The Dahr lies to the west of the Bangar, and is traversed by the Chautang and the Sarusti. The surface is flat. The loam soils contain less sand than in the Bangar; but they are not difficult to work, and are very productive. There is a fertile strip of flooded land, which forms the valley of the Chautang. But the distinctive feature of the circle is the large amount of rice land (dahr), only cropped in the autumn harvest, which gives heavy returns in good and next to nothing in bad years. To the east of the Sarusti the dahr is lighter than to the west of that stream, where it consists of a stiff black clay. Rájpúts predominate in the Dahr, and Jats and Rájpúts in the Bangar circle. The Bangar and Dahr might very well have been made into a single circle, and ultimately almost identical rates were proposed for both.

117. "Between the two settlements there was a small increase in the

Population and crops in Jagádhri. cultivated area, which has now about reached its limit, and a considerable addition to the number of wells. Irrigation is not much wanted, and the only circle with as much as 10 per cent. of its area irrigated is the Som Khádir, in the last of which a good deal of land is watered by the canal. The population has grown somewhat since 1855, and is as large as the tahsil can be expected to support. The influences of famine and disease, which have checked the natural expansion of population in Pípli, have operated in Jagádhri with much less rigour. Drought is seldom sufficiently severe to cause the first, and, though the rainfall is heavier, the drainage is much more rapid, and the people are therefore less liable to be decimated by fever. The decline in cultivation and population in the Som Khádir is due to the encroachments of the torrents. The material of the population is not nearly so good as in Pípli, for Rájpúts, Gujars, and Banias own half, and Jats, Kambohs, Mális, and Raiens only one quarter, of the tahsil.

The crops are of course far more secure than in the upland circles of Pípli. An exception must be made in the case of the Dahr, where there is a great deal of precarious rice cultivation. The extraordinary fluctuations of this crop even in a submontane tahsil can be judged from the following figures relating to the Dahr circle, and in considering them it must be remembered that the rice lands there yield nothing else:—

YEAR.	Fine rice harvested.	Coarse rice harvested.		
			Acres.	Acres.
1883	727	1,459		
1884	5,475	4,093		
1885	1,552	2,250		
1886	4,598	6,188		

In the Northern Jamna Khádir the large amount of double cropping is a sign of bad, not of good, land, and of bad, not of good, tillage. There is always a temptation to take two poor crops off damp uncertain soils. As cultivation is easier and its fruits more secure in Jagádhri than in Pípli rents are of course higher.

118. "The rates which I proposed are shown below. They brought out
Proposed rates. an enhancement of Rs. 27,479, including Rs. 3,477 on account of owner's rate, or 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the old revenue:—

Circle.	Irrigated from wells.	Irrigated from tanks.	Canal Sailáb.	Jamna Sailáb.	Sailáb of torrents.	Dry except dahr.	Dahr.	Rate on cultivation.
Kandi	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Dahr	3 12 0	2 12 0	...	...	1 12 0	1 6 0	0 16 0
Bangar	3 12 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	...	1 6 0	0 15 0	1 6 9
Southern Jamna Khádir	3 12 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	1 2 0	...	1 9 4	1 9 4
Northern Jamna Khádir	1 0 0	...	1 4 0	1 3 10
Som Khádir	1 6 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

Rs. a. p.
* Or including owner's rate 1 0 1
† Or including owner's rate 1 9 1

These rates were accepted by the Financial Commissioner, but he desired me if possible to go above them in the Southern Jamna and Som Khádir circles. But they were considered too low by the Punjab Government, and it ordered other rates to be adopted, which would have raised the demand by Rs. 47,525, and given an increase of 23 per cent. On receipt of the orders of Government I examined my rough proposals for the assessment of each estate with great care, and decided that the utmost enhancement that could safely be demanded was Rs. 39,251 or 19 per cent. My revised proposals were accepted as sufficient by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and I was allowed to assess below them in the Northern Jamna Khádir, which I had pointed out was a peculiarly weak tract both as regards its soil and its population.

119. "Details of the assessment actually imposed are given on the next page. The rates were not revised, but the enhancement of the demand may be said to have involved the following changes in those which I originally proposed:—

Dahr.—Rate on dry loam raised from Re. 1-6-0 to Re. 1-7-0.

Bangar.—Rate on dry loam raised from Re. 1-6-0 to Re. 1-7-6, and rate on dahr from Re. 0-15-0 to Re. 1-0-0.

Southern Jamna Khádir.—Dry rate raised from Re. 1-9-4 to Re. 1-11-0.

Northern Jamna Khádir.—Dry rate raised from Re. 1-4-0 to Re. 1-5-0.

Som Khádir.—All-round rate raised from Re. 1-6-6 to Re. 1-8-0.

Thus the result of the revision of assessment has been to enhance the demand by Rs. 38,394, or 19 per cent. The increase in the khâlsa has been in a higher proportion. This is due in part to the lapse of a number of petty revenue free grants with the expiry of the past settlement. Government gets rather less than half of the owner's rate, the rest going to assignees of land revenue.

120. "The canal irrigation is nearly all in seven estates of the Khâdir Som circle. Till 1850 water was given without any money Owner's rate. charge, the irrigating villages being bound to supply a certain number of labourers to work on the canal. By Punjab Government Notification No. 154, dated 7th June 1889 (*see Appendix*) the owner's rate was introduced into Jagâdhri, Pîpli, Kaithal, and Indri, and it was ordered that the amount should be calculated at half occupier's rate. Experience in other districts makes it probable that the imposition of an owner's rate in place of an irrigated assessment rate will be followed by some contraction of the average area for which canal water is taken. The receipts for two years in the Jagâdhri and Pîpli tahsîls have been:—

1888-89	...	...	...	...	...	..	Rs. 2,400
1889-90	...	...	...	...	...	..	" 3,034

Under rules sanctioned by the Government of India in 1889 (Punjab Revenue Circulars, page 570) the Sardîr of Baria is entitled to the whole of the owner's rate in one Jagâdhri village, and in six estates the proceeds should be divided between Government and numerous jágîrdârs in proportion to their respective shares in the land revenue. In order to avoid the keeping up of the elaborate account which the annual division of the fluctuating amount leviable as owner's rate between Government and the jágîrdârs between the various pattîs sharing in the jágîr villages, and inside the pattîs between the numerous pattidârs, would involve, it was decided to fix the sum payable to the jágîrdârs for a period of seven years, on the basis of half the occupier's rate realized for the five years before settlement. This was found to amount to Rs. 1,787, which the jágîrdârs will receive annually from the treasury (Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 7614 R., dated 4th October 1889). At the end of seven years, when the present arrangement will be revised, the probable average receipts from owner's rate will be known, and there is little doubt that the jágîrdârs will then have to submit to a reduction.

121. "The sum of deferred jamas in Jagâdhri is Rs. 1,656, of which Deferred assessments. Rs. 1,190 are on account of progressive assessments falling in in 1893-94, and Rs. 466 on account of protective leases for wells."

CHAPTER VI.

REVENUE ASSIGNMENTS.

122. The figures given in para. 93 show how large a proportion of the land revenue has been made over to assignees of different classes in every tahsíl of the district. There is no other district in the Punjab presenting so much difficulty in respect of revenue assignments; none it is believed in which so large a proportion of the revenue has been assigned in perpetuity in one form or another, and none certainly in which there are so many difficult questions connected with the past history and present circumstances of the jágírs. The record rooms of Amballa, both English and Vernacular, but especially Vernacular, contain masses of papers dealing with these intricate questions, and though much was done at last settlement to evolve order out of chaos, and much more in the present revision to further simplify and systematize the whole subject it is inevitable that the jágírs should continue to be a frequent source of trouble to District Officers, and to require an unusual amount of care and attention on the part of the Revenue establishment both at head-quarters and in the tahsíl offices. Without going into minute detail, it will be useful to sum up as shortly as possible the causes of the present state of things, and to give the leading facts in a form which will assist officers in future to understand what they are dealing with, especially those who may come to the district from parts of the Punjab outside the Cis-Sutlej territory, where they may not have been familiar with the jargon of horsemen's shares, pattidíri jágírs, zails, status, commutation and other technical terms.

123. The history of the country can be best read in Cunningham's History of the Sikhs, in the "Rájas of the Punjab," in the old Settlement Reports of Amballa and Thánesar and in Chapter II of the Amballa and Karnál Gazetteers, which are mainly a compilation from the old Settlement Reports. The leading facts are as follows:—In 1763 the Sikhs of the Mánjha country of Lahore, Amritsar and Ferozepore combined forces at Sirhind, a few miles from the boundary of the present Ráipur tahsíl, routed and killed the Afghán Governor Zain Khan, and poured over the Cis-Sutlej Doáb. The chiefs hastily divided up among themselves and their followers the whole country to the Jamna, and asserted themselves as rulers of the people. In a very few cases, such as those of the Sayad Mír of Kotáha and the Ráipur and Rámgarh Rájput Sardárs of Naráingarh, and the Baidwán Jat Sardárs of Kharar, the indigenous leaders of the country were strong enough to hold their own after a fashion, and to assimilate their position to that of the conquerors. Elsewhere the Sikh rule was supreme, and the experience undergone by the people of the district at the hands of these merciless invaders has left its mark on the country to the present day.

124. The history of the next forty years is made up of the endless petty warfare of these independent Sikh chiefs among themselves, except when a common danger banded them to resist the encroachments of the more powerful States of Patiála and Manimájra on the north, and Ládwa, Kaithal and Thánesar on the south. Each separate family, and each group of feudatories strong enough to stand alone, built itself a strong fort as a centre from which it could harry the whole neighbourhood. Many of these are still in existence and a marked feature of the district, recalling the extraordinary lawlessness of a period when literally every man's hand was turned against his brother. No attention was paid to the country by the British Government which had fixed the Jamna as the furthest limit for political enterprise, and it is believed that the profoundest ignorance prevailed both as to the constitution, the rights and the political strength of the supposed rulers. From 1806 to 1808 the position rapidly changed. On the one hand, the Cis-Sutlej chiefs themselves were panic struck at the sudden danger threatened to them by the rise of Ranjít Singh's power from beyond the Sutlej. In the three successive years 1806 to 1808 raids were made by Ranjít Singh in person to Ludhiána, to Naráingarh and

to Amballa. It was openly announced by him that he intended swallowing up the whole country to the Jamna, and it was realised that one power and one only could prevent his immediate success. On the other hand, the British Government feared a new danger from the north by a combined invasion of the French, the Turks and the Persians, and it was hastily decided to give up the Jamna as the boundary, and to trust to the new principal of alliance with a strong buffer State at Lahore. At the same time it was recognised that Ranjít Singh was himself a source of danger not to be despised, and, with the Government in this mood in 1808, an impulse was easily given to the policy of active interference by the arrival at Delhi of a deputation represented by Jínd, Patiála and Kaithal, to invoke assistance for the Cis-Sutlej States. Some help had been given to the British by Jínd, Kaithal and Thánesar in the struggle with the Mahrattas five years before. It was apparently assumed that the whole territory to the Sutlej was parcelled out among a few leading States of the same character through whom the country could be strongly governed, and the efforts of the authorities were aimed at the two-fold object of, on the one hand, securing an effective alliance with Ranjít Singh, and on the other, extending British protection to these lesser States ranging from the Jamna to the Sutlej.

125. The overtures were eventually successful, and a definite treaty was made with Ranjít Singh on the 25th April 1809, by which he surrendered his new acquisitions south of the Sutlej, and bound himself to abstain from further encroachments on the left bank of that river. The treaty was followed up in May 1809, by the celebrated proclamation of Colonel Ochterlony, on behalf of the British Government, to the Cis-Sutlej chiefs. This proclamation, beginning with the quaint wording that it was "clearer than the sun and better proved than the existence of yesterday" that the Britsh action was prompted by the chiefs themselves, is given in full in Appendix 10 of *Cunningham's History* and at page 122 of the *Punjab Rájás*. It includes seven short articles only, of which No. 1 to 5 are important; Nos. 1 to 3 limit Ranjít Singh's power and declare the Cis-Sutlej chiefs sole owners of their possessions free of money tribute to the British; while Nos. 4 and 5 require them in return on their side to furnish supplies for the army, and to assist the British by arms against enemies from any quarter as occasion might hereafter arise.

It is impossible to read the history of these transactions without seeing that the Government were in reality taking a most important step almost in the dark. Instead of finding the Amballa territory under the control of a few central States, they soon realised that they had given it over for ever to hordes of adventurers with no powers of cohesion, who aimed only at mutual aggression, and whose sole idea of Government was to grind down the people of the country to the utmost limit of oppression. The first point was easily settled by a sharp reminder given in a supplementary proclamation of 1811, that every man would have to be content with what he held in 1809, and that the British Government would tolerate no fighting among themselves. It was, however, found that as a fact the so-called Cis-Sutlej Sovereign States were represented, as far as Amballa was concerned, by some thirty petty rulers with estates ranging from 20 to over 100 villages, and by a host of small fraternities comprising many hundreds of the rank and file among the followers of the original conquerors, who had been quartered over the country with separate villages for their maintenance, and who were all alike now vested with authority as independent rulers by the vague terms of the proclamation of 1809. Published works have nowhere very clearly recognised how sorely the Government repented of its mistake; but there seems no doubt as to the facts; and it is not to be wondered at that Sir David Ochterlony should have privately admitted to the Governor-General in 1818 that the proclamation of 1809 had been based on an erroneous idea.

126. From 1809 to 1847, persistent efforts were made to enforce good Government through the Political Agency at Amballa Measures taken from 1809 to 1852. among the endless semi-independent States. The records of the time bear witness to the hopeless nature of the undertaking. They teem with references to the difficult enquiries necessitated by the frequent disputes among the principalities, by their preposterous attempts

to evade control, and by acts of extortion and violent crime in their dealings with the villages. Year by year Government was driven in self-defence to tighten the reins, and every opportunity was taken to strengthen its hold on the country by enforcing its claims to lapse by escheat on the death without lineal heirs of the possessors of 1809 or their descendants. It was thus that the British District of Amballa gradually grew up, each successive lapse being made the occasion for regular settlements of the village revenues and the introduction of direct British rule.

In 1846-47 a fresh step had to be taken owing to passive obstruction or open hostility on the part of the chiefs, when called on to assist the Government with supplies and men during its campaign against the Trans-Sutlej Sikhs in 1845. This was the first occasion on which they had been required to fulfil their engagements of 1809, and they came out of the trial so badly that Government was forced to confiscate many large estates, and assume direct control even where the so-called chiefs were allowed to retain the revenues of their villages. At the same time the liability for personal service on the part of chiefs and their contingents was commuted for a fixed money contribution, known as commutation tax (*nazarana* or *haqq compitishan*) generally calculated at two annas per rupee of land revenue.

In 1852 a final step was necessitated by the march of events and the revenue settlement had to be enforced throughout what were now known as the *jágír* villages, these being assessed to a cash revenue at the same rates as in the British or *Khálsa* villages, instead of being allowed as heretofore to levy their revenue in kind.

127. Though all political power was now taken out of the hands of the *jágírdárs*. Government scrupulously upheld their right to the revenue in perpetuity in accordance with the proclamation of 1809. The right was construed strictly both for and against the *jágírdárs*, under a series of orders passed between 1851 and 1856. These orders and some subsequent interpretations are quoted at length in the summary now contained in clauses 51 to 89 of the first para. of Revenue Circular No. 37 (pages 309 to 321). The general effect of the orders was to constitute three separate classes of *jágírdárs*, known as—

- (1) Major *jágírdárs*;
- (2) *Pattídári jágírdárs*, and
- (3) *Zaildárs* or subordinate feudatories of No. (1).

128. The major *jágírdárs* include nearly all the leading *Sardárs* of the district, entitled to the revenue of a larger or smaller (often a very large) group of villages. Government is entitled to the reversion of this revenue in all cases on absolute failure of heirs, and in most on failure of heirs tracing descent to a common ancestor alive in 1809. The exact position of these major *jágírdárs* is not, however, clearly defined, and each case is liable to be re-opened at the death of the holder, though ordinarily there is little doubt as to the terms of succession by heirs. "In practice the status of 1808-9, though not absolutely prescribed for guidance by Government, has almost invariably been referred to as governing claims of collaterals to succeed to large estates, the custom of the family being referred to only to determine whether the estates should descend integrally or be divided among the nearest heirs, either in equal or unequal shares, what provision should be made for widows, and other points of the like nature." (Clause 77 of Revenue Circular No. 37). The really influential men among these larger *Sardárs* are very few, and family after family is chiefly noticeable for the frequency with which drink and debauchery have brought their victims to an early grave. In not a few cases it is an open secret that vicious lives have led to a failure of lawfully begotten heirs, and that extinction of the house, with the consequent lapse of the *jágír* to Government, have only been avoided through the extreme difficulty attending any investigation into the private affairs of the family—a difficulty which makes it almost impossible to ascertain the truth even where the facts obtain an open notoriety. There have been only two important escheats in the last

thirty years. The Siálba family of tahsíl Kharar died out in 1866, and 59 villages, with a revenue of Rs. 26,000, passed to the Government, and in 1875 a like fate befell the Manimájra jagír in the same tahsíl, the largest in the district, covering 69 villages, with a revenue of Rs. 39,100. Many of the families have, however, only one or two representatives, and it is a necessary though disagreeable part of the Deputy Commissioner's duties to watch the circumstances of the families closely.

129. The origin of the minor fraternities known as patti dâri jágírdârs
The patti dâri jágírdârs is similar to that of the larger Sardârs. They are the
and zaïldârs. lineal descendants of men who overran the country under
the leadership of petty chiefs or who were summoned later from the Mânjha to
assist these chiefs in holding their own. Villages had been seized by them or
awarded to them for maintenance according to the general custom of 1760—1800
and when the existing position of all parties became crystallized by the transac-
tions of 1809 to 1811, they were recognised as independent holders of the
villages originally granted to them. It follows that the patti dârs also have
been in most cases given the status of 1809, that is, whether the present holders
are represented by one or two sharers or by hundreds, all representatives within
the patti have rights of inheritance as collaterals from sharers dying without
issue provided that they and the deceased sharers can trace common descent
from an ancestor living in 1809. Even so, many of the shares have died out,
and the corresponding revenue has lapsed to Government, and it is in this way
that shared villages have become so numerous all over Amballa. It is hardly
too much to say that these men have no aims beyond living on their jágír where
it is large enough, and starving on it where increasing numbers in the family
have reduced each share to a miserable pittance. As a rule, they own no land
and look down on a life of agriculture. The best of them are those who have
returned to their native land and taken to regular employment. Those who
remain for the most part either cannot or will not enter the service of Govern-
ment, and their greatest pleasure lies in stirring up useless dissensions among
the zamîndârs.

It is the case that all the original pattís have obtained the status of 1809 but as a matter of fact many of the groups now classed as pattidári jágírdárs are recorded with the status of later years. The explanation lies in the position of the third class known as zaildári jágírdárs. The zails are jágírs now held by representatives of men to whom the villages in question were awarded by large Sardárs, either before or after 1809, with less definite surrender of superior rights than in the case of the ordinary pattidárs. The theory and to some extent the practice, was that the Sardárs could resume at will from their zaildárs, and whether this was correct or not the zaildárs themselves recognised their inferior position at the time of the earlier investigations and were accordingly entered as such. The practical difference between the zaildárs and pattidárs may therefore be stated by saying that when the whole or part of a zaildári jágír lapses on failure of heirs, the lapsed revenue goes not to Government but the major jágírdár concerned.

For reasons which need not now be followed up the status of zaildárs was fixed in 1854, on the basis of the year 1847, and in case of lapse of the major jágír concerned the outstanding zaildárs then become ordinary pattidárs except that their status is still that of 1847 and not 1809. Further when investigation was being carried out at last settlement it was found that many of the superior jágírs had lapsed without formal definition of the zaildárs rights. The orders passed were that the zaildárs in such cases should derive their status from the date of year of lapse. The practice followed seems however to have been to allow the status of 1809 except in certain cases of recent lapse. It is these cases which (omitting minor complications) partly account for the appearance among the pattidári jágírs of certain pattís with the status of years other than 1809.

Total jágir revenue and number of shares. 180. The total sum including commutation now distributed among the different classes of jágírdárs is as follows :—

Major jágírdárs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 2,55,811
Pattidári jágírdárs	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,05,095
Zaildári do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,519

A full detail of each class, showing the number of families and sharers in each jágír is given in an Appendix to the Amballa Gazetteer, as it is often convenient to be able to refer readily to the particulars of a jágír. The major jágírdárs usually hold their jágírs in not more than one or two shares. The pattiédári jágír shares are much more numerous. The following table gives the figures by tahsíls:—

TAHSIL.	Total pattiédári jágír revenue.	VILLAGES IN WHICH HELD			Total number of		Number of distinct pattiés.
		Whole.	Part.	Total.	Families.	Sharers.	
	Rs.						
Amballa	... 85,297	117	37	154	257	980	21
Kharar	... 54,709	36	99	135	576	1,838	26
Rúpar	... 31,593	64	1	65	171	345	9
Narúningarh	... 30,149	60	25	85	181	569	28
Pípli	... 48,145	110	57	167	258	792	21
Jagádhri	... 55,202	99	74	173	228	830	25
Total District	... 3,05,095	486	293	779	1,671	5,374	130

A family in this statement means the group of descendants from the common ancestor living in 1809 or any other year on the basis of which the jágír status is calculated. As long as any descendant remains, the heirless shares pass to the remaining members of this family and not to Government. In the majority of cases the prospects of ultimate lapse to Government are now remote and the result is that the number of sharers increases and the value of the shares proportionately diminishes with each successive generation. The following table shows the families and sharers classified according to the value of their shares as now ascertained:—

Value of shares.	4 annas and under.	4 annas to Re. 1.	Re. 1 to Rs. 5.	Rs. 5 to Rs. 10.	Rs. 10 to Rs. 25.	Rs. 25 to Rs. 50.	Rs. 50 to Rs. 100.	Rs. 100 to Rs. 500.	Over Rs. 500.	Total.	
Families	...	32	65	127	72	217	221	323	503	111	1,671
Sharers	...	148	241	746	703	1,289	965	685	501	96	5,374

These figures indicate how far the process of subdivision has already gone. They are taken from a separate report on the subject, submitted by me in 1890, in connection with a proposal to withdraw the right of direct revenue collection from the pattiédárs. The report is printed in Punjab Government Proceedings for January 1891, Nos. 23—30. It has been decided that any steps taken in the direction proposed should be very gradual, the circumstances which would justify withdrawal of the privilege of direct

collection in any particular case having been stated to be proved trouble and oppression to zamíndárs and difficulty in recovering commutation fees. Where direct collection is still permitted (as in almost every case) it has been provided that --

- (1) The place of payment shall be either at the village itself, at the head-quarters of the tahsíl, or at the place of residence of the jágírdár, provided that it is not more than 10 miles distant from the village and within the same tahsíl.
- (2) The jágírdár shall keep up regular accounts in Urdu showing the dates and amounts of each collection made, together with a book of duplicate lithographed and regularly numbered receipt forms, in a prescribed form, one receipt to be torn out and given to the lambardár in return for every payment, and the duplicate to remain in the book as a record.

131. The original commutation tax fixed by Government at two annas Commutation and life in the rupee was in many cases reduced to one anna for shares. good services rendered by jágírdárs during the mutiny.

In some few cases the tax is, for special reasons connected with the past history of the jágír, levied at different rates, such as 4 annas for the first generation and 8 annas thereafter. There are further complications in the jágírs in respect of shares held for life only, but these do not require more than passing mention.

132. During the reinvestigation of jágírs, carried out in 1888-89, a number of cases requiring the orders of Government were Special cases. brought to light. Mr. Douie has dealt with important cases of tahsíls Jagádhri and Pípli in paras. 91, 93, 96 and 97 of his Report for Karnál-Amballa. The following were the more important cases in North Amballa. Brief references to the cases will be sufficient to enable the correspondence to be traced if necessary :—

- (1) Chahúrami tenure of Sil, Garangan, Gadhera and Todar Májra (tahsíl Kharar). In this case status was recorded at last settlement on the basis of 1852 possession, under instructions from the Commissioner. In 1859-60 the case was referred again to Government, who decided that the orders of 1852 were unauthorised and that the status of 1809 must be awarded. By an oversight the later orders were carried out in the case of Todar Májra only. In 1869, 1872 and 1888 escheats were improperly enforced on the status of 1852 in the case of Sil and Garangan. Government decided (No. 62, dated 28th May 1889) that the orders of 1860 should be reaffirmed and carried out in the case of Sil, Garangan and Gadhera, the amount wrongly credited to Government in past years being refunded. The amount eventually refunded was Rs. 11,511.
- (2) In a jágír of tahsíl Kharar, known as the Haftami, the jágírdárs were entitled to sums representing one-seventh or one-fifth of the jágír revenue of 42 villages. By a mistake they were from 1860 allowed to receive their one-seventh or one-fifth calculated on the total revenue inclusive of lapsed shares. The decision now given is that Government will not interfere on account of a mistake made so long ago. The jágírdárs are therefore now recorded as entitled to one-seventh or one-fifth share in the whole revenue of the villages. (Government No. 44, dated 25th April 1889).
- (3) In the case of patti Imli of Naráingarh and patti Bihta of Amballa a question arose whether the pattís were to be treated as independent pattís with the status of 1809, or as zaildárs of Shahzádpur with the status of 1847. The decision was that both pattís should be awarded the status of 1809, shares which had lapsed irregularly to Shahzádpur being now restored to Government and certain other irregular shares being continued for life only. (Financial Commissioner's No. 2560, dated 18th April 1889).

(4). The case of the Kotla Sarmukh Singh zail of tahsíl Rúpar may also be referred to as of special importance, though it was not reported by the Settlement Officer. The case was constantly under enquiry or appeal from 1885 to 1889 and is too long to quote. The point is that Government eventually decided that the previous general orders of 1854 and 1856 fixing on 1847 as the year of status for existing zails should be upheld, even where the zaíldári tenure had been in existence in 1808. It was further directed that special attention should be drawn to the orders governing succession to and escheat of zaíldári jágírs, as explained in the case. (Punjab Government No. 70, dated 4th February 1889). The effect of the orders in this case was that a zaíldári jágír valued at about Rs. 2,500 a year lapsed on failure of heirs to the Singhpuria Sardárs of tahsíls Rúpar and Kharar instead of to a collateral branch of the family of the deceased zaíldár which had been long settled in the Ferozepore District. The previous correspondence of 1854 and 1856 has been printed in connection with the case in the Proceedings of the Punjab Government in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 14 of February 1889, and is now available in a convenient form for reference in case of future disputed zaíldári successions.

(5). The case of the village of Lakhnaur also requires notice. The village is situated in one of the blocks of Patiála villages within the limits of tahsíl Amballa. It originally passed to Government with some others in 1815, but was then transferred to the jurisdiction of Patiála for administrative purposes only. In 1852-56 it was decided to place the village on the same terms as the Khumanon estate, that is the jurisdiction of Patiála was to be upheld for the life of the then Mahárája Narendar Singh, subject to payment of commutation tax (at Rs. 43 a year on an assessment of Rs. 350), to liability for report of births and deaths among the jágírdárs, and to payment to Government of the value of any shares which might lapse. In 1860 the Khumanon villages were transferred entirely to Patiála in connection with the settlement of accounts for money lent by the State during the mutiny, but Lakhnaur was left on its original footing. In January 1862 a proposal was made for sale of Government rights in Lakhnaur to Patiála for Rs. 1,560, but Government replied (No. 373, dated 19th May 1864) that the time was not suitable for a change. In the meanwhile Mahárája Narendar Singh had died in 1862, but it was overlooked that the village ought in consequence to revert to British jurisdiction, and Patiála has continued to administer it subject only to payment of Rs. 43 a year as commutation. The case was reported for orders in my letter No. 98, dated 2nd April 1889, and Government has decided (No. 516, dated 18th November 1891,) to transfer the village entirely to Patiála for a payment of Rs. 1,560. Before the transfer is carried out a record is to be made showing the rights of the proprietors of the land, the original pattídári jágírdárs, and certain Pujári priests to whom they had made a sub-assignment of the revenue. A settlement record is now being prepared accordingly for the protection of all existing right-holders, though it was perhaps hardly required as under the peculiar circumstances of the village there is no probability of the Patiála State attempting to resume the assignment unfairly, seeing that it has for more than a century supported a Gurdwara of some celebrity.

138. The jágír enquiry at last settlement was thoroughly done, but the New jágír registers and system of registration was cumbrous, and the records had fallen into such disorder that the Settlement Officers had to undertake a complete revision and a new system of classification. The objects

of the changes introduced in 1889 were explained in a letter from the Settlement Officer, North Amballa, to the Commissioner, Delhi Division, No. 41, dated 16th February 1889. Briefly it was found that the old registers were defective in the following respects :—

- (1) Being prepared separately for each village they did not show in any one place the entire jágír of a jágírdár holding shares in a series of villages in one or more tahsils, and difficulty was consequently experienced in calculating the value of a jágír share.
- (2) The record work in connection with the entry of heirs was much increased owing to the necessity for writing up pedigree tables separately for each village included in a jágír. It required a clerk with a special education to find his way among the 40 volumes of registers, while the registers themselves were almost unintelligible to superior officers.
- (3) The conditions of the jágírs were nowhere shown in the registers and perpetual reference was required to back files, many of which had been buried in the record room and lost sight of.
- (4) The registers only dealt with the fractional horsemen's shares on the basis of which the jágír revenue of a village was divided and nowhere gave any clue to the real value of the jágírdár's share. Whenever a note was required as to the amount of a jágír share, as for instance in case of lapse, the calculation could only be worked out by a conference between the revenue accountant and jágír clerk, resulting in a report which it was beyond the power of a District Officer to check. One main consequence was that in shared villages it was always difficult to make out how much revenue was due to Government and how much still went to the jágírdárs, and matters had gradually drifted into serious confusion, imposing such heavy work on District and tahsíl Offices that Revenue Officers found it practically impossible to devote a fair share of their time to the revenue work proper of the district.

The new form of registers, sanctioned by the Financial Commissioner in a letter No. 4, dated 12th March 1889, has largely reduced the bulk of the work to be done by the District Office in connection with jágírs and has gone far to meet the defects of the old system. The voluminous registers have now been reduced to eight, and the whole facts regarding each branch jágír have been brought together in a few consecutive pages, with a detail showing the fractional share and corresponding revenue due to a jágírdár in each of his villages. Copies of the new registers have been made out for District and tahsíl Offices, with instructions how they are to be used, and space has been left for entries during the next 30 years. If properly kept up as they appear to have been so far since the close of settlement operations, they will effectually prevent recurrence to a state of things which formerly added seriously to the difficulty of revenue work in the district, and it is now for the first time possible for either officials or the jágírdárs themselves to readily ascertain the facts about a jágír as required. The leading files of investigation at the old and new settlements have been bound up in a series of 169 volumes, corresponding in arrangement with the entries in the registers, while all important intermediate files have been similarly arranged and indexed in separate bundles. It will be convenient to keep future files in the same series, and out of the general record room where they are easily lost sight of, owing to the difficulty of keeping them concentrated in the village bundles of any particular one of the many villages over which a jágír often extends.

134. The number of jágírdárs in the district had not previously been known with any accuracy. It was commonly believed that there were over 10,000, and even as late as May 1887 the Deputy Commissioner estimated the number at over 17,000. Proposals for consolidating jágírs and extinguishing petty shares. As a fact there are well under 6,000, even including the zaildárs, and of these

3,126, that is well over half, receive each a share of Rs. 25 or under in the year's revenue. Among the worst cases of minute sub-division are the Rámgarh patti in tahsíl Amballa, where 39 persons divide Rs. 152, the Haftami-Salahpur jágír of tahsíl Kharar where 58 sharers divide Rs. 13 and the Haftami-Mauli patti of the same tahsíl, where 285 sharers divide Rs. 361. The extraordinary revelations made by the figures given in para. 130 led to some discussion in 1889 and 1890, as to the possibility of consolidating the jágírs which are dispersed over a number of villages, and of extinguishing the petty shares either by buying out small holders or establishing a system of primogeniture so as to prevent further sub-division in the future. The difficulties in each case were found to be very great when it came to working out practical measures, and the final decision of the Financial Commissioner, contained in letter No. 4102, dated the 1st July 1890, was that nothing could be done. Government has for the present accepted this view owing to the many difficulties with which the question is beset, but has directed that, while petty holders cannot be compulsorily bought out, the question of commuting should be considered and reported in the event of a general desire to commute being ever expressed by any family. (Para. 5 of Punjab Government No. 12, dated 9th January 1891).

135. In respect of patti-dári-jágírs two classes of officers are nominated by the Deputy Commissioner and the jágírdárs to assist Sarkardahs and Sarbarahs. Government in keeping up a correct detail of the jágír shares and to facilitate correct distribution of the jágír revenue among the persons entitled to it, many of whom are residents in other districts. The officers are known as Sarkardahs and Sarbarahs. Their functions are defined in Revenue Circular No. 37, para. 8 of Part B. and rule 17 under para. 10. The Sarbarah is an unpaid agent of the family who collects the revenue of one or more groups of villages, keeps up (often in his head only) a detail of the complicated system of horsemen's shares on which the family jágír is divided, and distributes accordingly whatever money he collects. The Sarkardah has, properly speaking, nothing to do with the collections. It is his business to report births and deaths and to realize and pay into the Treasury the commutation money for his branch of the jágír, and in return for these duties he receives 5 per cent. of the commutation tax.

The duties assigned to these officers were formerly irksome in themselves and difficult to carry out properly owing to the prevailing ignorance among the jágírdárs as to their respective rights. The trouble experienced in working through Sarkardahs and Sarbarahs led the Deputy Commissioner to propose between 1887 and 1889, that one or both classes of officials should be abolished. The question was discussed at some length in connection with the proposal to abolish revenue collections by jágírdárs (referred to in para. 130) and the final orders of Government were contained in para. 3 of the latter quoted at the end of the last paragraph. Sarbarahs are to be retained except in cases of proved abuse, or where a majority of the patti-dárs apply for a change, and easily workable arrangements can be made. Sarkardahs are also to be retained for the present and Government sees no objection to the same man holding both offices, but only if the patti-dárs elect the Sarkardah to be their Sarbarah, their free power of election not being disturbed. There is reason to hope that matters will work more smoothly under the new jágír arrangements, and that the question has been set at rest for some time to come without the necessity for burdening Government officers with the liability for direct collection and distribution of jágír revenue as at one time proposed.

136. Though the decision has been against establishing a system of primogeniture in the case of patti-dári jágírs, the case of major jágírs stands on a different footing in respect of major jágírs. Clause 78 of para. 1 of Revenue Circular No. 37 refers only to one case, that of the Rámgarh family (of tahsíl Naráingarh) in which definite orders have been passed authorising succession by primogeniture, to avoid the gradual splitting up of the large revenues held by the principal Sardárs of the district. Steps were, however, taken in 1860 and 1861, to get all the leading families to agree to a more or less complete system of primogeniture. So far as is known

the proceedings were never formally reported and some notice is required of the vernacular file which is still in existence in the District Office. The case opened with a murásila from the Commissioner, dated 21st March 1860, to each major jágírdár enquiring into the actual custom of the family, suggesting that primogeniture had great benefits, and pointing out that no interference would be involved with the family rights of succession in case of death without heirs. Replies appear to have been received from most of the Sardárs, generally accepting the principle and stating the amounts which should be awarded out of the jágír as maintenance for younger sons or brothers.

On 13th April 1861, the Commissioner then called on the Sardárs to execute agreements, and in many cases these were actually executed in or about June 1861. They have been since acted on in at least two cases, the Manakmájra family of tahsíl Khacar and the Ráipur family of tahsíl Rúpar, but there is always a doubt in the case of succession to major jágírdárs as to what the rule of succession should be. The file alluded to is incomplete, and possibly the agreements of 1861 would not be held authoritative by Government in the event of a dispute occurring, but they would much assist in coming to a reasonable decision, and would probably in most cases be accepted by the families as binding. It is to the interest of the family as well as of Government that the jágír should not be sub-divided, and the question would have acquired more importance than it has already, but for the fact that families are usually very small in the case of the larger jágírs.

137. The investigation of both jágírs and minor assignments (máfis) Revenue free grants other than jágírs. was carried out on similar lines in the two settlements. In all nearly 7,000 máfi cases had to be investigated, of which 4,000 were disposed of in the four northern tahsíls and about 3,000 in Jagádhri and Pípli. The principal difficulty in the case of máfi assignments lay in tracing out the circumstances under which the revenue had been assigned in order to determine whether the máfi had been sanctioned by proper authority or not. The instructions under which the investigation was made empowered the Settlement Officer to resume without report to higher authority in the following cases:—

- (1). Where the grant was for the term of settlement, resumption could be ordered with effect from the date of introduction of the new assessment, in all cases where it seemed advisable, doubtful cases being reported by letter.
- (2). Where the grant was for life only, the Settlement Officer could resume if the term had expired.
- (3). Where no proper previous authority existed he could resume if continuance appeared unadvisable.

The orders under which officers worked at last settlement were changed several times in the course of settlement operations. Up to 1st April 1853, the Settlement Officer had power to sanction grants of 10 acres and under, and the Commissioner grants covering larger areas, subject in both cases to sanction by higher authority if the assignment was to be in perpetuity. After 1st April 1853, the Settlement Officer could sanction grants to village servants only, while the Financial Commissioner could dispose of grants of 10 acres or under for lives or the term of settlement, sanction by the Punjab Government being required in all cases not falling under these heads. The Settlement Officers and Commissioner dealt with the great mass of cases under the orders in force before April 1853, but complete registers were not prepared, and much of the work was left undone when the settlement closed. Further instructions were issued by the Commissioner in a Circular No. 190, dated 18th December 1854, under which the Deputy Commissioner submitted (in May and July 1856) batches of English registers for some 670 máfis, which required sanction of higher authority under the rules of 1853. The final orders of the Government of India on these cases were passed in June 1857, but at that particular time every

one had enough on his hands without looking into such matters, and the Government orders were frequently overlooked, not being written up on either file or registers.

Under these circumstances it was a matter of considerable difficulty to determine now under No. (3) of the instructions quoted above, what sanction really existed, and whether that sanction was valid. Eventually, however, all or very nearly all the old orders were traced out, and it then became a comparatively easy, though a very long, business to decide which máfis ought to be resumed.

138. Resumption was effected in rather over half the total number of Resumption proceedings cases. The principles on which it was decided whether to resume or not, in cases where the Settlement Officer had at revised settlement. discretionary power, were laid down by the Financial Commissioner's letters Nos. 7237, dated 24th October 1885, and 1633, dated 12th March 1886. The first of these letters dealt with Guga Pír assignments, locally known as máris, which are common all over Amballa, and the second with petty grants in support of rest-houses (takyas), religious institutions (thakurdwāra, shiwála or khangál) minor grants for shrines, groves or tombs, and grants to village servants. The instructions were precise, and speaking generally they required continuance of the grants in all cases where the purpose for which the assignment was given was still fulfilled. The great mass of the 3,600 assignments which have been resumed were exceedingly petty, and much relief has been given to the district by the reduction of routine work in connection with these assignments, while all possible tenderness was shown to assignees, however trifling the assignment, where any fair case could be made out for continuance.

139. The current instructions authorised a Settlement Officer to maintain existing assignments, by his own order, only where Máfis continued for a further term. New registers. a previous valid sanction, for life or in perpetuity as the case might be, was still in force. All other cases in which continuance was considered advisable, were reported for the orders of the Financial Commissioner or Government in a series of English registers, on which orders were obtained before the settlement closed. New registers were then prepared, divided into four classes according as the grants were in perpetuity for life or lives, for the term of settlement, and máfis in jágír estates, while in Pípli a fifth register has been prepared for máfis in shared villages. The number of máfis of all kinds maintained is as follows :—

TAHSIL.	MAFIS CONTINUED.				
	In perpetuity.	For term of settlement.	For life or lives.	In jágír estates.	Total outstanding máfis.
Amballa	169	134	73	140	516
Kharar	62	65	107	328	562
Rúpar	59	58	51	207	375
Naráingarh	154	75	63	183	475
Jagádhri	133	83	86	412	714
Pípli	101	259	92	182	634
Total District ...	678	674	472	1,452	3,276

In round numbers the outstanding máfi revenue by the new assessment is Rs. 25,000, inclusive of máfis in jágír estates. Provision has been made in

the new registers for the entry of mutations and lapses, and copies of the registers have been given to the tahsīl offices. The registers are in vernacular only, but references have been given throughout to the English correspondence containing the authority for the assignment. Sanads were also made out for assignees where required under the rules.

140. In the case of máfis in jágír estates the jágírdárs were authorised Máfis in jágír estates and shared villages. to continue or resume the assignments at pleasure. As a rule they preferred to continue, and the grants were then entered as maintained "during the pleasure of the jágírdár and continuance of the jágír." A jágírdár is therefore entitled to resume at any time if he wishes to do so and the grant becomes voidable at the pleasure of Government in the event of the jágír lapsing. On the occurrence of a jágír lapse the whole of the máfis in the jágír villages concerned require reinvestigation, and the sanction of the Financial Commissioner or of Government has to be obtained for each release or resumption of the assignment. Shared villages have at the settlement investigations been treated as if they were khálsa, however small the Government share might be. The orders prescribing the procedure in the case of both jágír and shared villages have been quoted in full in para. 99 of the Karnál-Amballa Settlement Report. They give full instructions to guide the District Officers of Amballa in questions which may hereafter arise regarding assignments by jágírdárs. So far as is known only one case occurred of a jágírdár attempting to resume what appeared to be "Sarkári" grants, that is grants held by a máfidár from a period before the Sikh conquest. The assignments in question were certain large grants, known as the Láhnas held by the Sardár of Ráipur under the Sardár of Shahzádpur in the Naráingarh tahsīl. The circumstances of these grants are referred to in paras. 117 and 120 of Mr. Wynyard's Settlement Report. The matter ended for the time in withdrawal by the Sardár of Shahzádpur of his application to resume, but it is possible that the dispute may come to a head again some day. If it does the Shahzádpur claim to resume should, I think, be scrutinized closely before it is admitted. It did not appear to me that it would be right to admit it looking to the previous history of the case and to the position held by the máfidár as one of the major jágírdárs of the district.

141. In the course of the máfi investigation several cases came to light, Special máfi files. in which neglect or misunderstanding of the orders passed at last settlement had led to continuance of large grants for years after they should have been resumed in whole or part under the terms of the old sanction. The following cases may be specially noticed :—

- (1). *Manumájra, tahsīl Amballa.*—A grant of Rs. 200 net was sanctioned about 1850 in three equal shares, each tenable for life. Two of the sharers died in 1863 and 1869, but as the orders had not been entered on any register, jágír or máfi, they were overlooked. The Financial Commissioner (No. 1263, dated 2nd March 1888) decided that arrears should be foregone and two-thirds of the assignment resumed from the date of new assessment.
- (2). *Phoksa, tahsīl Amballa.*—This was a similar case in which five-sixths of an assignment of the net value of Rs. 330 should have been resumed on the death of life sharers. The Financial Commissioner's orders (No. 1532, dated 13th March 1888) were as in No. (1).
- (3). *Handikhera, tahsīl Naráingarh.*—This was a case of a large grant in support of a religious institution. It was investigated three times at last settlement in 1851, 1854 and 1857. The 1851 orders were invalid. Those of 1854 and 1857 were contradictory, the case having by a mistake been reported twice to Government. In either case a large part of the máfi should have been resumed in 1861, but as a fact the original sanction of 1851 alone had been acted on. The orders of Government (No. 66, dated 3rd July 1888,) have now been that the case should be treated *de novo*, a grant of 20 acres being made in

support of the institution and the rest of the assignment resumed.

(4). *Panjlassa, tahsíl Naraíngurh.*—This was a case of a grant covering 127 acres, of which half should have been resumed under the orders of Government in 1853. The orders had never been carried out, and there was ground for presuming that they had been evaded by collusion between the máfidár and subordinate revenue officials. The Financial Commissioner (No. 2586, dated 26th April 1888,) considered the proof of fraud not strong enough to justify Government in demanding arrears, but directed that half the assignment should be resumed at once.

(5). *Lohgarh, tahsíl Rúpar.*—In this case Rs. 250 was granted at last settlement to one Chuhar Singh for life, half the grant to be resumed on his death. Chuhar Singh died in 1861, but by a misunderstanding nothing was done. Government has now ordered (No. 81, dated 18th August 1888) that the whole grant shall continue during the life of Deva Singh, the holder, and be reconsidered on his death.

The cases quoted are enough to show that the máfi work in Amballa will always require care, and that Government interests have not invariably received proper attention in the past. It is believed that all complicated cases of minor assignments have been now cleared up, and that the new registers may be depended on to give accurate information regarding the terms of sanction in each case. At the same time it may be remembered that the number of files to be dealt with by the Settlement Officers was unusually large and that the old máfi records were in great confusion. It would not be surprising if some few cases should be found to have been disposed of irregularly notwithstanding every precaution.

142. In the earlier stages of the settlement operations Government directed the introduction of the zaildári system on the lines *Zaildárs and inámdárs.* usually followed in other districts of the Punjab, and zaildári circles were formed accordingly. It was, however, eventually decided after much discussion that it was inadvisable to require the jágírdárs and máfidárs of the district to make the ordinary zaildári contribution at the rate of one per cent. of their assigned revenue, in order to establish a zaildári agency. This exemption of assigned revenue from contribution rendered it necessary to abandon the plan of establishing zaildárs throughout the district upon the ordinary lines. The funds available did not admit of a zaildár agency upon a suitable scale, and Government directed that zaildárs should not be appointed, but that in their place inámdárs should be introduced in accordance with the following instructions:—

(1) The 86 circles into which the district has been divided in view of the introduction of a zaildári agency should be maintained. The boundaries of these circles may, where necessary, be gradually revised in accordance with the rules under the Land Revenue Act, in order to make them more compact or for other reasons.

(2) For each circle a rural notable may be appointed who should be called an inámdár, not a zaildár. The rules regulating the appointment of these men will be Rules 28 and 29 of those contained in Chapter II, Part II, of the Rules under the Land Revenue Act. The emoluments of each inámdár will consist of an inám assignable from the revenue or commutation money of some village or villages in his circle.

(3) In addition to these inámdárs of zails a limited number of other inámdárs may be appointed, provided that the gross expenditure upon all ináms does not exceed Rs. 8,500 per annum, this being as nearly as possible one per cent. upon the khálsa land revenue and commutation money. It is to be understood that the money for all these ináms is to be deducted from khálsa revenues.

(4) The scale of allowances to be given in the form of cash ináms is fixed as follows:—

15 first class ináms at Rs. 120 a year
45 second " " " 90 "
35 third " " " 60 "

subject to such modifications as the increase in the gross amount to be distributed in ináms may render possible. The inám attached to zails should always be of the first or second class. If a vacancy arise in a zail inám of the first class, the Commissioner may, if he think fit, reduce the inám to the second class, promoting one of the second class zail ináms to the first class instead. All ináms will be purely personal, and held for life subject to good conduct and efficiency. The duties of inámdárs will be the same as those of zaildárs, and jágírdárs will be eligible for appointment as inámdárs.

143. The total number of zails in the district has Number of zails. been since reduced to 85, distributed as follows:—

Tahsíl	Amballa	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
"	Kharar	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
"	Rúpar	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
"	Naráingarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
"	Jagádhri	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
"	Pípli	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

The Morni iláka of Naráingarh was specially excluded from the zaildár circles, and the arrangements made at settlement also contemplated exclusion of the towns of Rúpar, Thánesar and Shahabad. Jágírdárs appointed to zail circles are permitted to draw the inám in addition to their jágír revenue. The final orders on the subject of zails and ináms are contained in Punjab Government letter to the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, No. 229, dated 19th December 1890, and in the Financial Commissioner's letter to the Commissioner, Delhi Division, No. 517, dated 23rd January 1891. The orders exempting assignees in Amballa from zaildári contribution make it clear that the law enables Government to compel all jágírdárs and máfidárs to contribute, but states that it has been resolved to allow exemption to them "for the present and during the pleasure of Government."

The arrangements made in Amballa in respect of ináms are to some extent novel, and it has yet to be seen how they work. I am inclined to think that we should have done better to constitute a somewhat smaller number of zaildári circles, and reduce the total number of ináms giving a corresponding increase in their value without exceeding the Rs. 8,500 fixed as the limit of expenditure in the district. Government has accepted the principle that the average allowances may be kept low with advantage in Amballa, and no great change appears desirable, but it might be an advantage hereafter to modify the scale laid down so as to have fewer inámdárs enjoying rather larger emoluments.

CHAPTER VII.

OCCUPANCY TENANTS AND MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

144. In this last Section of the report some notice is given of a variety of subjects which could not be conveniently dealt with in Explanatory former chapters.

The subjects are not in any way connected with one another, except that they are all matters on which it may be convenient for District Officers to have some information readily available.

145. The occupancy tenants are an important class in Ambálla. They hold about 72,500 acres or nearly 8 per cent. of the total cultivated area, and include a number of small communities of industrious peasants of the Raien and Saini or Máli classes located in the large Rájpút villages, where they manage to make a living, in spite of very small holdings, on land which the proprietors themselves are unable to turn to good account. Where there are only a few occupancy tenants in a village they will generally be found to be of the same caste as the proprietors, and descendants of men who were associated with them in previous generations by ties of blood or marriage, or else to belong to the village menial and artisan class. In the former case there is little real distinction between the proprietors and tenants. The tenants may, and commonly do, own land as proprietors in the same or a neighbouring village in addition to what they held in tenant right, and at last settlement their rent was usually fixed in terms of the revenue and cesses without addition for proprietary dues. Where the tenants belong to the menial or artisan classes the holding is ordinarily very small, representing a few bigahs made over to them as an inducement to remain in the village. In such cases also the rent fixed at last Settlement included either no málikána or only a very trifling sum.

There remains the third and much the most important class, where the tenants are men wholly different by caste, habits and position from the proprietary body, belonging usually to the industrious castes already referred to. They were commonly established in the village within the last century or so, and occupy lands from which the proprietors were forcibly dispossessed by the Sikh chiefs during the period of semi-independent jurisdiction. Throughout this period the Sikhs collected their revenue in kind, and one of their principal means of increasing the revenue was by encouraging families of more industrious cultivators to settle in the village. Originally few in numbers these small communities continued to grow and flourish at the expense of the proprietors, and as a rule they eagerly fastened on the rich homestead land specially suited to their market garden style of cultivation. During the Sikh rule the tenants were tolerated by the proprietors without active resistance, and in most cases the proprietors were probably only too glad to be relieved of responsibility for cultivating and to get a trifling recognition of their proprietary right in the shape of a sér or two in the maund from the produce. The situation changed altogether on the introduction of a regular settlement. The proprietors then did all they could to recover land from the tenants, and the latter in their turn all they could to be given the status of proprietors instead of occupancy holders. In village after village the dispute was fought through the Courts with much bad feeling on both sides, and the feeling still exists as keenly as ever. The decision at last settlement was generally in favour of the proprietors as regards rights, but in consideration of the fact that the tenants had borne their full, or more than their full share of responsibility for the high revenue levied by the Sikhs or taken by Government in the summary settlements, their rents were fixed in cash in terms of the revenue with an addition generally of not more than one or two annas in the rupee as málikána.

146. The earlier Tenancy Legislation of 1868 did not immediately affect the tenants in Ambálla as the rents fixed at last settlement remained in force till revision of assessment, but Act XVI of 1887 brought a great change in the position of affairs. Out of the total 72,500 acres then cultivated with occupancy right little over 20,000 acres paid rents in kind. From 9,000 to 10,000 acres, mostly in the northern tahsils, paid Government dues only, without málikána, and the remaining area of about 43,000 acres paid cash rents with an addition of what was intended at last settlement to be usually $6\frac{1}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. though subsequent changes in cesses and the resulting confusion in village accounts had frequently made the málikána actually taken almost nominal. As a rule tenants paying no málikána could establish a right to the highest status under Section 5 (1) (a) of the Act of 1887, and in their case two annas in the rupee of land revenue represented the maximum to which their rent could be raised, but comparatively few of the remaining tenants paying rent in cash could prove a right to privileged status of any kind and they therefore all became liable to enhancement up to 75 per cent. of the revenue. The district was threatened with a flood of litigation, and the Financial Commissioner directed the Settlement Officers to hear the cases as much as possible themselves, arranging together a fair scale of enhancement to ensure uniformity of treatment throughout the district. This was done in the case of North Ambálla between July 1888 and March 1889. It was arranged that cases should be heard in such a way that the whole body of tenants in a village, if of one class, or the whole of those included in each class if there was more than one, should be sued on one plaint instituted by the proprietors jointly, and the scale of rates of enhancement adopted by the Settlement Officers was as follows:—

- (a) where the tenants paid nothing but revenue and cesses, the maximum málikána of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was decreed at once;
- (b) where the existing rate of málikána was not more than $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. it was as a rule raised to 4 annas in the rupee, or 25 per cent.;
- (c) where the existing rate of málikána exceeded $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. but did not exceed 25 per cent. it was as a rule raised to 5 annas 4 pies in the rupee, or 33 per cent.;
- (d) where the existing rate of málikána was more than 25 per cent. the enhancement was in each case fixed on the merits without following any general rule.

147. There were only a very few cases under (d) of the above scale.

Result of enhancement of rent litigation. Cases falling under (a) were more numerous in North Ambálla than in Jagádhri and Pípli and the principle here followed was that where tenants clearly belonged to the most privileged class it was better to get the question of rent settled once for all by decreeing the maximum enhancement so as to leave no room for future litigation. By far the greater number of cases in all parts of the district were disposed of under clause (b) of the scale, and looking to the previous history of the growth of tenant right in Ambálla the enhancement allowed was quite as great as the proprietors could fairly expect. Feeling ran very high over these cases, especially in the Kharar and Rúpar tahsils, and it was with some difficulty that they were got through before the settlement closed. I disposed of 488 cases in 329 villages myself at the Financial Commissioner's desire, including all the cases in which large bodies of tenants were involved. The remaining 96 cases of North Ambálla were heard by Bhai Arjan Singh, Extra Assistant Settlement Officer, and he also disposed of the 135 cases left pending from tahsils Jagádhri and Pípli at the end of Settlement operations there. I have no details for those tahsils, but in the four northern tahsils alone 10,300 tenants holdings were affected by the decrees, of which 9,800 were covered by the decrees given by me. The principal difficulty of the Act has been now settled as regards Ambálla by the fact that the status of the tenants has been definitely fixed in each case, but the question of further liability to enhancement at the end of the legal term has still to be considered. I can only hope it will not be forgotten how severe a trial the litigation of 1888-89 was to the district, even with the resources at the

command of Settlement Officers for getting it disposed of with the minimum of friction. Section 25 of the Act vests the Courts with a wide discretion as to what is a fair rate of enhancement, and if claims for further enhancement should be made before the period of settlement expires, there is much in the previous history of the case to consider apart from the margin for enhancement still possible under the Act. The previous village history as stated in the old Settlement records is not often of much use in these cases, but a file of from 1850 to 1854 can generally be found containing much information regarding the origin of the different classes of occupancy tenants in a village.

148. The following extract from paragraph 9 of the Morni Assessment Position of tenants in Report explains the present position of tenants in that Morni. tract:—

"Over two-thirds of the land is cultivated by the owners themselves, and nearly half the remainder by tenants paying revenue and cesses only. Some difficulty was experienced regarding the entries for tenants of this class. There is practically no distinction between them and the proprietors, and wherever the nominal proprietors agreed, the tenants were recorded as having rights of occupancy. Where this was not admitted, they were shown as tenants-at-will. There is little doubt that they are really entitled to permanent rights in the land, but I thought it better to refrain from close enquiry which would have only suggested disputes, and it is improbable that the proprietors will hereafter endeavour to eject these tenants under the Tenancy Act. The point should, however, be specially noticed, and in the event of the proprietors attempting ejectment in future years the applications should be carefully considered with reference to this explanation, and process of ejectment should not be issued until some preliminary enquiry is made. The terms "occupancy tenant" and "tenant-at-will" are little understood in this remote tract, and it is hardly too much to say that the Tenancy Act has never been heard of. It is much to be desired that this state of things should continue, and the less technical distinctions are brought to the notice of the people the better. It is, however, always possible that some over-zealous subordinate official may interfere, or that some ill-disposed person may endeavour to stir up disputes to gain his own private ends, and it may then be necessary to make further enquiry as to what is recognised as constituting occupancy rights in these hills. There are no former records to go on, so that the matter will have to be dealt with by arbitration, if it should be unfortunately necessary to draw sharp distinctions to which the people at present attach comparatively little importance."

In reviewing the report Government observed that it was a pity the Settlement Officer did not complete the tenant investigation himself. I may explain that it was understood that neither the Act nor Rules admitted of summary investigation in the manner suggested, and that I was acting under the advice of the Financial Commissioner (Colonel Wace) in not attempting to force matters to a head. In any case it is unlikely that difficulty will arise if the people are left to themselves. Many of these nominal tenants are cultivators in the sickly parts of Morni, where it is difficult enough to get labour on any terms however favourable. The proprietors have more than enough land on their hands as it is, and unless specially instigated thereto, with a view to the assertion of a technical right, they are unlikely to attempt to oust the tenants, at the risk of becoming liable for a larger revenue than they can really pay.

149. In a large number of villages, especially in the four southern tahsils, Talukdári or biswadári the proprietors pay petty sums to superior proprietors of dues, and chahárami ten- the same or other villages, as talukdári or biswadári dues, ure. in addition to the demand for revenue and cesses. The origin of these talukdári payments has been explained in the *Ambálla Gazetteer*, (Chapter III, Section D). Briefly they represent the compromise made at last settlement in the decision of claims to proprietary right brought by former proprietors who had long been ousted from their lands under the cultivating arrangements enforced by the Sikh rulers. The arrangements made at regular settlement have not since been modified. The biswadári allowance is usually a trifling sum, though valued by the superior owners as a recognition of their former status in the country. The amount is in some cases fixed at a small lump sum. More often it is calculated as a percentage of from two to five per cent. of the land revenue of the village. In either case it may be paid to a single superior proprietor, or (more generally) to the entire body of proprietors in the village entitled to superior ownership. It is not uncommon for one patti in a village to receive these petty dues from the other patti, especially where the village is divided between Rájpúts and inferior castes.

The "chahárami" tenures, which were at last settlement the cause of much difficulty in the district, now survive only in certain cases of the Jagádhri and Pípli tahsils. The origin of these tenures, or more strictly speaking of these revenue assignments, is described in the Amballa *Gazetteer*. The present position and the effect of recent Government orders in the case of each grant is detailed in paragraphs 96 and 97 of the Karnál-Amballa Settlement Report.

150. The circumstances under which it was proposed in 1888 to constitute a reserved forest (under the Forest Act) in Morni, and the grounds on which the scheme was eventually abandoned, are stated in Chapter IV, Section A., of the Amballa *Gazetteer*. In case the scheme should ever be revived it will be remembered that a large enhancement of revenue has been taken in the Morni tract on the understanding that no reserved forest would be constituted.

151. Records of the customs regulating rights in land and the devolution of property have been prepared for the principal tribes of the district in accordance with the form adopted in recent settlements. The original vernacular records have been bound up separately for each main tribe in each tahsíl, and the series of 37 volumes has been made over to the District office. A short summary of the statement of custom has been made for the district as a whole, and is being published as part of the customary law series for the Punjab.

152. Instructions for the guidance of officers conducting the annual alluvion and diluvion enquiries in tahsils Jagádhri and Pípli have been printed as Appendix A. of the Karnál-Amballa Settlement Report. The instructions and forms may be applied to the whole Amballa district, with the exception that the rates of assessment in the Sutlej Bet will be those specified above in paragraph 74, which were approved by the Financial Commissioner in the orders on the Assessment Report and have now been found to work well for some years. The following summary gives the chief instructions, as they will then stand for the Amballa district as a whole:—

A.—In the case of lands subject to the action of the rivers Jamna and Sutlej, the scale of assessment rates to be applied is given below. The particular rate to be applied depends on the quality of the soil for the time being, and is determined primarily by the nature of the crops grown during the year.

(1) For the Jamna river villages—

(a) In Pípli and the Northern Jamna Khádir circle of Jagádhri—

	Rs. a. p.	a. p.
Highest	... ... ... 1 4 0	an acre = 4 2 per kacha bigha.
Middle	... ... ... 0 14 6	" = 3 0 "
Lowest	... ... ... 0 8 0	" = 1 8 "

(b) In the Southern Jamna Khádir circle of Jagádhri—

	Rs. a. p.	a. p.
Highest	... ... ... 1 8 0	an acre = 5 0 per kacha bigha.
Middle	... ... ... 1 0 0	" = 3 4 "
Lowest	... ... ... 0 8 0	" = 1 8 "

(2) For the Sutlej river villages of Rúpar—

	Rs. a. p.	a. p.
For good sugarcane land	2 8 0	an acre = 8 4 per kacha bigha.
For ordinary lands.	Highest 1 8 0 Middle 1 0 0 Lowest 0 8 0	" = 5 0 " = 3 4 " = 1 8 "

In the case of both the Jamna and Sutlej waste lands, fit for grazing, are assessed at the rate of one anna an acre, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ pies a bigha.

B.—In the case of villages subject to the action of hill streams or sand the revenue is remitted on cultivated land wholly destroyed by torrents. Where the land is materially injured, but not wholly destroyed, it is assessed at

half the revenue rate fixed for that land or for the village at the revised settlement. Similarly land on which the revenue has been remitted or which was unassessed at settlement, and subsequently cultivated owing to the action of streams, may be assessed at full or half rates according to its quality. It is to be hoped that the instructions as regards rates will be followed closely for villages subject to the action of torrents. Any refinement introducing rates other than full or half the rates already in force for the village or land as the case may be leads to complications and mistakes in the village accounts without compensating advantage.

153. I have referred in paragraph 70 to the question of the irrigating

The question of a fluctuating assessment in the Neli circle of tahsil Kharar. It is even more doubtful now than when the Assessment Report Neli circle.

was written whether anything can be done to improve the tract by a change in the system of irrigation. In a note of the 2nd December 1887 the Commissioner has calculated the normal discharge during the irrigating season, that is in the winter months, at from 96 to 100 cubic feet of water a second, taking the discharge through the so-called sluices, which are only rough wooden frames set up in the bed of the Ghaggar stream for the purpose of distributing the available water-supply among the villages entitled to it. Two-thirds of the supply, or say 60 cubic feet a second, goes to British villages, where it irrigates an average of nearly 9,000 acres a year in tahsils Kharar and Narasinghgarh. This gives an average duty of 150 acres a cubic foot, which is a fair rate of duty and precludes the idea of waste. Nor again did the Commissioner see any signs of waste or over-irrigation, and the suggestion made in the Assessment Report, that the remedy for existing evils lies in a revision of the irrigating arrangements, must therefore be given up.

The whole tract is overgrown with trees and bushes and choked with weeds, especially thistles and a wild trefoil. Whenever it gets the chance of good cultivation rich crops can be grown, including sugarcane and opium. Ordinarily, however, the crops have to take their chance with unlimited water, little ploughing, no weeding and no manure, and the results are as bad as they can be. Sugarcane is a good crop, but might well be better, and in the small plots where Ponda cane is grown for eating the returns are enormous. Wheat is generally a poor crop, considering that it is irrigated, and where grown after rice is extremely poor. Rice alone is really satisfactory, and has given the Neli its wide reputation for extraordinary fertility. The centre of the tract in particular grows first-rate chahora scented rice, sown broadcast, which would be an impossibility in the other rice lands of the district. Even the coarser kinds can be depended on for a heavy outturn, and with the abundant water-supply there is not the common liability to failure which makes rice so often a ruinous crop. The conclusion to which the Commissioner came was that the ill-health of the people and deterioration of the soil could be remedied only by a change of staples. The soil was sick of rice cultivated without cessation for generations, and the suggestion made was that a fluctuating assessment should be introduced with a system of crop rates devised so as to discourage rice cultivation and encourage indigo and other crops which might be expected to renovate the land. It has recently been decided that the experiment will not be tried at any rate for nearly three years more, but I venture to put forward as a point for consideration when the case again comes up for discussion, that extensive rice cultivation does not appear in itself a sufficient explanation of the disease prevalent in the tract. There are many parts of India where rice is grown continuously year after year without similar bad effects, and I have recently seen large tracts of country in Java where irrigation is practised to an extent unknown in the Punjab and where rice cultivation is conducted on the largest scale, which are yet healthy and prosperous. On the other hand there is the peculiar fact that the special unhealthiness of the Neli villages is characteristic also of the villages in the Ghaggar valley of the Morni tract, while other portions of Morni where rice is also grown largely are comparatively free from disease. Mr. Douie again has commented strongly on the degraded physical type of the people of the Pehowa and Kaithal Neli tracts which are also flooded by the Ghaggar lower down on its course. What the real explanation of bad climatic conditions along

the Ghaggar may be has probably yet to be discovered. It seems however doubtful whether a change of staple alone would do much to improve the condition of the people, whatever it might do for the soil, and unless the experiment now being tried in Kalsia villages is a pronounced success it is a question whether it is worth while attempting a fluctuating assessment in the Kharar Neli, based on crop rates. In this connection it may be noted that the existing fixed assessment, sanctioned temporarily in the first instance for the five years ending with the rabi of 1892, is a full half-asset assessment. The revenue rates were followed closely for the circle as a whole, and the rates estimate on the abi land, at Rs. 2-5-4 an acre, came to Rs. 17,932, as against a half-asset estimate of Rs. 17,511, based on the crops actually grown for three years on the abi area of 7,685 acres. It is not improbable that a fluctuating assessment would involve some considerable loss of revenue, though no doubt this would rightly be considered as of minor importance if there was a reasonable prospect of improving the condition of the country.

154. As any change which may be made in the Neli will have to take

Existing system of distribution of water in the Neli. account of the existing system of water distribution, I give a short account of the system under the arrangements made by Lieutenant Briggs in 1852, and brought into practice by a proceeding of the last settlement dated 29th December 1854. Lieutenant Briggs' report is in the District office and the settlement proceeding still guides the darogha in charge of the irrigation.

The water-supply is regulated at a place near Chandigarh, just below the junction of the Ghaggar and Kashulia streams. The total supply is allotted as follows:—

(a) To the Neli villages	...	...	...	...	...	two-thirds.
(b) To the Patiala and Kalsia States and the three British villages of Rámgarh, Móbárakpur and Bankarpur.						one-third.
(b) Is further sub-divided as follows on 16 shares:—						<i>Shares.</i>
To Patiala villages	...	...	...	...	...	5
To Kalsia	”	...	...	...	...	8
To Rámgarh, Móbárakpur and Bankarpur	...	...	...	...	...	3

The further sub-division among Neli villages is carried out by an elaborate system of shares, which is fully in force during the season 15th October to 15th June, and is observed as far as practicable during the rains also. The arrangements determine roughly the amount of water to which each village is entitled, and the times at which it is made available, while within the villages there is a further distribution regulating the division among individual proprietors. The system of shares is too long and intricate to describe in detail, and it is sufficient to note that the defects in the system are—

- (1) that the arrangements for clearance of channels and construction of dams are difficult to work efficiently, and
- (2) that the practical effect of the distribution is to give villages in different parts of the Neli a very unequal share in the water.

The difficulty in regard to (1) is largely due to the weakness of the villages, and can hardly be got over as long as there are few inhabited villages in the Neli.

The defect under (2) is illustrated by the following figures for the Neli villages, which sub-divide the main British allotment of two-thirds upon eight shares:—

(a)	villages representing 1 share irrigate on an average 285 acres per share.
(b)	... ... ... $1\frac{1}{2}$ 576 ”
(c)	... ... ... $3\frac{1}{4}$ 722 ”
(d)	... ... ... $1\frac{3}{8}$ 1,450 ”
(e)	... ... ... $\frac{7}{8}$ 2,309 ”

Taking 1,000 acres per share as a fair mean of irrigation duty, it appears that some villages have as much more water than they want as others have too little. There is difficulty in interfering with an institution of such long standing, and the conclusion arrived at in 1887 was that it was not worth while attempting to get the villages to agree to a new distribution, in view of the possible change involved in a fluctuating assessment. The matter may however be borne in mind in case the decision should eventually be to make no change in the nature of the assessment.

The irrigating arrangements are worked by an establishment costing Rs. 85 a month. The cost is shared equally by Government and the Patiála and Kalsia States.

155. At last settlement assignments were made from the revenue in a number of small villages, as a contribution towards the pay Chaukídára assignments. of chaukídárs. The sums were in most cases petty, and the grants were supposed to be made where the villages were too small to pay the whole cost of a chaukídár themselves. These assignments have been treated somewhat differently by Mr. Douie and myself. In tahsils Jagádhri and Pípli, where the items were few and unimportant, the chaukídár's assignment was deducted from the old assessment of the village and left out of account in the new assessment, so that though the item has been cleared from the revenue accounts the village still practically gets the benefit of the assignment in the form of a slightly reduced revenue. In the four northern tahsils there were 229 cases of the kind. The assignment has been resumed in 161 cases, where the village no longer required this assistance. The remaining 68 assignments, representing Rs. 1,370, have been continued temporarily. They are all cases in which the villages are small, and the item (usually some Rs. 24 a year) would have proved a considerable addition to the new revenue demand if the villages were suddenly called on to provide the amount in addition to the normal enhancement of their revenue by new assessment. The final orders of the Financial Commissioner (No. 3808, dated 13th June 1891), are that the assignments may remain in force until the Deputy Commissioner revises the chaukídár arrangements of these 68 villages, making such reductions in the number of chaukídárs as may be possible. Where villages can be doubled up so as to divide the cost of a chaukídár the assignment will be resumed, and the deductions will thus gradually disappear from the revenue account. The difference in treatment in the two portions of the district is more apparent than real, but there would have been some small loss of revenue, to be realized eventually as the assignments are resumed, if the Jagádhri and Pípli practice had been followed throughout, as the items are both more numerous and larger in the northern tahsils.

156. The post of Extra Assistant Settlement Officer in the North-Amballa Settlement was filled for nearly three years by Sheikh Ahmad Bakhsh. This officer's qualifications are well-known. He was unable to do full justice to himself in Amballa, owing to frequent temporary transfers on other duty and to periods of leave or sickness, but such work as he was able to do was thoroughly satisfactory. After he finally left the settlement there was an interval of nearly a year, and then Bhái Arjan Singh joined the post. The assistance given by this officer in the last two years of the settlement cannot be too highly praised, especially as he had had no previous experience of settlement work, and but little of the revenue line. His ability and energy are of the highest order and he is untiring in his efforts to improve the details of revenue administration. Without his help it would have been almost impossible to carry through the extensive jágír investigation described in Chapter VI of this report. I have had experience of no Native official whose future career promises to be so marked. Among the Superintendents the two men of conspicuous ability were Lála Arjan Dás and Lála Moti Rám, who were employed successively in the Amballa tahsíl. Both were new to settlement work on first joining, and both left for higher posts which they had thoroughly earned by their good work while under me. The remaining Superintendents were Settlement officials of the old stamp. The best were Amír Chand in Naraíngarh and Mufti Ahmad Bakhsh in Rúpar, the latter holding the post for the last four years only.

These older men had some difficulty in adapting themselves to the stringent conditions of a settlement worked through the patwári agency alone, but those mentioned did their best and could be depended on for honest work. Lastly among the Deputy Superintendents some mention should be made of Basáwa Singh, Sobha Rám, Dhanpat Rai and Híra Singh, all of whom did first-rate work, while Mehdu Lál was of much assistance in carrying through the operations in the Morni tract.

March 1893.

A. KENSINGTON.



सत्यमेव जयते

General Statement showing Population, Area, Crop Area and Revenue of the Amballa District, as constituted in 1891-92.

TAHILL.	PERIOD.	POPULATION.				AREA.				CROPS.				REVENUE.			
		1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
		By Census of 1881.	By Census of 1891.	Total area in acres.	Cultivated area in acres.	Irrigated.	Untirrigated.	Total area of crops in both harvests.	Total gross assessment.	Total gross assessment in rupees per acre outlay and 10%.	Rs. A. P.						
Amballa (excluding Amballa cantonment).	Revised Settlement, 1883-89	178,780	...	226,919	1,621	173,063	174,684	172,760	2,34,429	1,5,5							
	Annual papers, 1891-92 ...	...	179,551	226,989	1,294	173,733	175,027	181,612	2,33,826	1,5,4						
Kharar	Revised Settlement, 1883-89	167,939	...	236,018	10,891	139,394	150,285	160,923	2,57,692	1,11,5							
	Annual papers, 1891-92 ...	...	168,642	236,199	10,919	142,327	153,246	167,345	2,56,752	1,10,10						
Rúpar	Revised Settlement, 1883-89	143,821	...	184,262	11,850	104,618	116,468	136,456	2,25,596	1,15,0							
	Annual papers, 1891-92 ...	...	146,816	184,623	15,145	107,199	122,344	135,454	2,26,778	1,13,8						
Náraingarh	Revised Settlement, 1883-89	145,519	...	278,590	3,193	133,996	137,189	151,442	1,91,883	1,6,5							
	Annual papers, 1891-92 ...	...	141,396	278,682	3,332	135,817	139,149	131,150	1,91,012	1,6,0						
Jagádhri	Revised Settlement, 1882-89	169,643	...	260,443	10,772	155,631	166,403	166,152	2,40,893	1,7,2							
	Annual papers, 1891-92 ...	...	168,634	260,015	8,124	162,567	170,891	163,886	2,38,869	1,6,6						
Pipli	Revised Settlement, 1882-89	174,610	...	357,810	27,210	168,606	195,816	186,922	2,42,660	1,3,10							
	Annual papers, 1891-92 ...	...	177,442	357,646	12,739	197,046	208,785	210,300	2,36,334	1,2,0						
Total for Amballa district ...	Revised Settlement, 1882-89	...	980,312	...	65,537	875,308	940,845	974,655	13,93,253	1,7,8							
	Annual papers, 1891-92 ...	...	982,411	1,544,154	51,553	918,689	970,242	989,747	13,88,694	1,6,10						

Note.—The gross assessment shown in column 10 is inclusive of deferred revenue, on account of progressive assessments and protective well leases, in the case of the entries for revised settlement.

APPENDIX.

List of Gazette Notifications regarding the revised settlement of the Amballa District.

(1). Punjab Government Notification No. 123—572, dated 17th May 1882, putting Tahsils Jagádhri and Pípli under settlement (quoted *verbatim* in Appendix B. of Karnál-Amballa Settlement Report).

(2). Notifications Nos. 42 to 46, dated 1st March 1883, putting the remaining portion of the Amballa district under settlement. The following are the important parts of these notifications, omitting clauses dealing with the powers of the various Settlement officials:—

No. 42.—*Notification.*—Whereas the remaining portion of the Amballa district is to be put under settlement, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, to issue the following notification of settlement in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1871:—

1. The local area which is to be put under settlement consists of Tahsils Amballa, Naráingarh, Rúpar and Kharar of the Amballa district.

* * * * *

3. The settlement to be made will be a re-settlement, and will comprise both a re-assessment of the revenue and a revision of the record of rights.

4. Surveys and plans will be made for the whole tract hereby placed under settlement.

No. 46.—Appointing Mr. A. Kensington, Settlement Officer, to the charge of the North Amballa Settlement with effect from 7th February 1883.

(3). Notifications Nos. 89 and 90, dated 18th April 1883, giving powers to Lála Arjan Dás, Superintendent of Settlement.

(4). Notification No. 107, dated 14th May 1883, appointing M. Ahmad Bakhsh, Extra Assistant Settlement Officer, to the Northern Amballa Settlement with effect from the 6th April 1883.

(5). Notifications Nos. 270 and 271, dated 5th December 1883, giving powers to Muhammad Akil, Superintendent of Settlement.

(6). Notifications Nos. 134 and 195, dated 20th June 1884, giving powers to M. Ahmad Bakhsh, Officiating Superintendent of Settlement.

(7). Notifications Nos. 221 and 222, dated 1st October 1884, giving powers to Settlement Officers and Extra Assistant Settlement Officers under the Code of Criminal Procedure, in respect of cases brought by or against members of the Settlement establishments and patwáris of their respective districts.

(8). Notifications Nos. 228 to 230, dated 1st October 1884, amending the powers given to Settlement Officers and other Settlement officials.

(9). Notifications Nos. 280 to 286, dated 1st December 1884, further consolidating and amending the powers of Settlement officials.

(10). Notification No. 121—1 (Home Department), dated 13th January 1885, transferring Muhammad Akil, Superintendent, to the Lúdhiana district.

(11). Notification No. 72, dated 13th April 1885, giving powers to Lála Moti Rám, Superintendent.

(12). Notifications Nos. 186 to 190, dated 4th June 1885, appointing Mr. T. J. Kennedy to officiate as Settlement Officer, Northern Amballa, during Mr. Kensington's absence on privilege leave for three months.

(13). Notification No. 261, dated 16th November 1886, appointing Bhái Arjan Singh to be Extra Assistant Settlement Officer of the North Amballa Settlement, with effect from the 5th November 1886.

(14). Notifications Nos. 40 and 41, dated 22nd February 1887, giving powers to Bhái Arjan Singh.

(15). Notifications Nos. 730 to 732, dated 1st November 1887, giving powers to Settlement officials under the Land Revenue Act, XVII of 1887.

(16). Notifications Nos. 337 and 338, dated 4th July 1888, stating that it was proposed to constitute as reserved forests the forest lands situated in the Morni iláka, in pursuance of an application made under Section 38 of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, by Mír Bakar Ali Khán, C.I.E., Jágírdár of the said iláka, and the recorded owner of the forest rights therein. The limits of these forest lands were declared to include all lands bearing trees in the said iláka which were not included in the several holdings of the peasant proprietors. Mr. Kensington, Settlement Officer, Ambálla, was appointed Forest Settlement Officer to enquire into the nature and extent of any rights alleged to exist within the limits of the tract.

(17). Notification No. 195, dated 5th October 1888.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 29 (1) of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to fix Rs. 4-13-6 as the proportion which the village officer's cess shall bear to the annual value of the land in the Tahsíls of Rúpar, Kharar, Amballa and Naráingarh of the Amballa District.*

(18). Notification No. 17, dated 16th January 1889.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 29 (1) of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to fix Rs. 5-3-4 † as the proportion which the village officer's cess shall bear to the annual value of the land in the Pípli tahsíl of the Amballa district.

(19). Notification No. 46, dated 25th February 1889.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 29 (1) of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to fix Rs. 4-13-6* per centum as the proportion which the village officer's cess shall bear to the annual value of the land in the Jagádhri tahsíl of the Amballa district.

(20). Notification No. 154, dated 7th June 1889.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased, with the sanction of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, to lay down the following rule for the assessment, until further orders, of the "owner's rate" under Sections 37, 38, and 39 of Act VIII of 1873 (The Northern India Canal and Drainage Act) on all land irrigated from the Western Jamna Canal in the Indri pargana and Kaithal tahsíl of the Karnál district and the Jagádhri and Pípli tahsíls of the Amballa district:—

Rule.—In all estates receiving irrigation from the Western Jamna Canal the owner's rate shall, until further orders, be assessed at one-half of the occupier's rate leviable on occupiers of canal-irrigated lands.

Proviso.—The owner's rate shall nowhere exceed the sum which, under the rules for the time being in force for the assessment of land revenue, might be applied on such land on account of the increase in the annual value of produce thereof caused by the canal.

2. This rate will be first collected in the Indri pargana for the autumn harvest of 1886, and in the rest of the tract under reference from the autumn harvest 1888.

(21). Notification No. 208, dated 9th September 1889, fixing Rs. 5-3-4 per cent. as the proportion which the local rate shall bear to the annual value of land in the Amballa district, under Section 5, clause (2) of Act XX of 1883 (The District Boards Act).

(22). Notification No. 319, dated 1st August 1890, cancelling the Morni Reserved Forest Notifications Nos. 337—8, dated the 4th July 1888.

* Lambardári 5 per cent. and patwári Rs. 4-11-0 per cent. on land revenue.

† " " " " 5-6-8 " " "